

THE TIMES

No. 65,686

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1996

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TODAY

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TODAY

10P

Blair tries to steer party back on course

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR will today try to put the Labour party back on course after a week of turmoil by ordering his troops to turn their fire on the Tories and away from each other.

The Labour leader, exasperated by lapses of discipline and the media's concentration on the party's future links with the unions, will use a speech in the City to encourage it to lift its sights beyond the present difficulties to the election battleground.

Yesterday Mr Blair was plunged into a new row when unions and leftwingers rounded on the frontbench spokesman Kim Howells for suggesting that the word "socialism" should lose its place in the party's vocabulary.

The leadership tried to dismiss the furore by saying that Mr Blair regarded it as a "lot of fuss about nothing", but it was again

make heavyweight policy speeches in the run-up to the party conference in two weeks' time.

But he will also show that he is unbowed by last week's clashes with the unions. He will make further overtures to the business community, and his allies emphasise that he believes Labour's relationship with business to be as important as that with the unions.

This was underlined yesterday when it emerged that Labour had received £500,000 from Bob Gavron, who built up Britain's biggest independent printing company. He said Mr Blair was "transforming" the party's relations with industry.

Mr Blair's speech to the London International Financial Futures Exchange will set out what he calls four millennium challenges for Britain and the importance of electing a Labour government to achieve them. But the message behind the address will be that with both the media and the Conservatives treating Labour as a government-in-waiting, everyone in the party must avoid saying or doing things that might prevent the election of a Labour government and its hopes of higher living standards for all.

Because he is trying to refocus his party's vision on what he sees as "the big picture", he is not expected to make direct references to the troubles that have beset the party leadership recently.

But Mr Blair and his aides believe that the significance of the speech has grown considerably in the light of the events of the past few days. Having been forced to deny that he plans to sever Labour's links with the unions, Mr Blair will have found Mr Howells's remarks yesterday.

The episode produced another bout of squabbling, with John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, telling Mr Howells to "keep his mouth shut" and

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Leading article, and
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embarrassed by the spectacle of Labour politicians and union leaders squaring up to each other.

Tonight Mr Blair will make plain in his speech that his MPs should spend all their energies on promoting Labour policies, particularly those to make people better off, and exposing the Conservative record.

He will announce that he has asked all of the Shadow Cabinet, "big hitters" — Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, John Prescott, Jack



Divorcee Kathleen MacPhee, a mother of three who also vanished last week



The missing Bishop of Argyll and the Isles



Now pet lovers can stroke the cat sitting on the laptop

By ROBIN YOUNG

PEOPLE who are allergic to cats are being given the chance to pet and foster a kitten of their own. A new CD-Rom to be released during National Cat Week introduces virtual reality cats as interactive computer pets.

Kept within the confines of the

household PC, the computer cats are pre-programmed to grow on a daily basis, and are provided with artificial intelligences which give them distinct personalities. Yet they are guaranteed never to soil the living room, tear the curtains or get stuck up trees.

Cat: Your Computer Pet

from Mindscape International

costs £14.99 and is a rarity in an interactive CD market dominated by games of violence and mass destruction. Mindscape says it should prove the ideal way of introducing children to good pet

risk of a caesarean — potentially fatal surgery."

In the case of the Rochdale Healthcare Trust, the woman, known as C, was in labour and refused a caesarean delivery. She had previously suffered painful after-effects from a previous caesarean and insisted on trying normal labour. Lawyers for the hospital decided to go to court when labour was not working and she was at risk of a womb rupture through her scar.

Bertie Leigh, a partner with Hempsons, the trust's lawyers who have set up a legal hotline to help hospitals in such circumstances, said: "We did not ask for this order; we placed the facts before the court and asked them

whether they wished to make an order."

It was wrong, he said, to suggest that doctors and lawyers were pressing for such powers. "Given that, if he had said no, two people might have died, then it seemed to me that I would not have made a decision contrary to that made by the judge." But he agreed that the decision appeared to have pushed the boundaries of such cases in that the woman was clearly regarded as "competent" by the medical staff. The judge, in his ruling, held she was incompetent and unable to weigh up the situation to make an informed choice. In the second case, a woman was taken into hospital.

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BRIDGING THE GAP
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Win an Internet management course, in Interface

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Part one of 100 Key Books, in the Magazine

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TUESDAY
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Labour plans to divert child benefit to poor pupils

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR, Gordon Brown and David Blunkett are to hold urgent meetings this week to settle Labour's plans to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds and use the money instead to help poorer children staying on at school.

After a long-running dispute, the meeting is expected to decide that new educational allowances of up to £20 a week — much higher than the current rate of child benefit — should be paid to parents in poorer families in order to help with food

and accommodation costs at home. The issue is one of the most sensitive facing the Labour leadership, and the plan to end child benefit for all older children at school faces challenge, and possibly defeat, at the annual party conference in two weeks.

Its importance is underlined by Mr Blair's decision to hold a meeting this week to finalise the plan with his Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Education Secretary before it is published in a pre-conference document, probably next week. Mr Brown has argued consistently that the party must face up to

tough choices and has won backing from some on the Left for his proposed reform, one of Labour's few specific proposals that would redistribute resources from the wealthy to the poor.

Scrapping the benefit should release about £600 million which would be reallocated to the children of less wealthy families. Mr Brown has stressed that in ending benefit for all school-leavers, he is not breaching the principle of a universal benefit, which applies for children under school-leaving age. Mothers of children who have left school do not receive child benefit, even though

unemployed youngsters under 18 have no automatic right to income support.

Some shadow cabinet members argued originally that because 16 year olds are treated as adults if they leave school, those in education should be treated similarly and get the money direct. But Mr Brown is understood to have won the argument that the parents should get the money along with the discretion as to how it is spent. Such a plan would avoid the charge that children are being given state "pocket money" to stay on.

The aim of Mr Brown's reforms

has been to encourage children in poorer homes, on whom there is tremendous pressure to go out to work, to stay on at school if they and their parents so desire.

The Tories are eagerly awaiting Labour's plans to calculate how many families are likely to lose child benefit, currently running at £10.80 a week, if the education allowances are set at a figure of up to £20 a week for those in poorer families.

But Conservative policy-makers are also looking at the future of child benefit. Under ideas being considered for inclusion in the election manifesto, parents of persistent

truant could have their child benefit cut as part of a shake-up of the £19 billion social security system. Ministers are increasingly concerned at the scale of truancy and bad behaviour in schools, and surveys have revealed record numbers of children being expelled from primary schools.

Tory policy strategists are to discuss the ideas with Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. They are studying the sanctions used in France where benefit can be cut if children miss school persistently.

IRA chiefs 'meeting to plan change in strategy'

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Irish Police sources confirmed yesterday that the IRA was planning to hold a large internal conference next month, intensifying speculation that the terrorist leadership is about to embark on a major change in strategy.

The sources said they had reliable reports that the General Army Convention, the IRA's supreme authority, would meet within weeks, for only the third time in its 27-year history.

The reports came amid conflicting signals in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic about the IRA's tactics. There has been speculation for weeks that the IRA will renew its ceasefire to allow Sinn Fein to join the multi-party talks. However, recent intelligence reports have indicated that the IRA may be on the verge of a renewed mainland bombing campaign, marking either a "spectacular" attack before a truce or a return to violence.

Detectives believe that the IRA is planning to use the cover of a Sinn Fein Irish language conference in Co Donegal for its convention next month. The last convention in 1986 was held under the cover of a similar conference.

However, Lucilla Bhreathnach, Sinn Fein's general secretary, yesterday categorically rejected the suggestion. "It is nonsense to suggest that a public event which is open at all times to the media, can also be a cover for something else," she said.

It was widely believed that the IRA Army Council, which runs the terrorist organisation, declared the ceasefire in 1994 without calling a convention because it would have failed to have won support for a permanent truce. The apparent decision to call a new convention must mean that the leadership is confident that it has sufficient support for a major change in strategy.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, refused yesterday to speculate about a renewed IRA ceasefire, but said Sinn Fein remained committed to its peace strategy. He also dismissed reports of an impending IRA convention.

Unionist and Conservative MPs reacted furiously yesterday after Gerry Adams was reportedly invited to speak about his new autobiography at a press conference at the Palace of Westminster this week.

Mr Adams's publisher, Heinemann, says that Jeremy Corbyn, the left-wing Labour MP, is planning to chair a press conference in the Jubilee Room at Westminster for Mr Adams. The press conference will coincide with the publication of Mr Adams's autobiography, entitled *Before the Dawn*.



Adams refused to speculate

Howells defiant over dropping 'socialist' label

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KIM HOWELLS, the Labour frontbencher, issued a withering put-down to a trade union leader yesterday who told him to apologise for having suggested the party should ditch the word "socialism".

The spokesman on trade and industry referred to John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, as "old rent-a-quote" and refused to draw back from his remarks on socialism, in yesterday's *Sunday Times*. In the face of widespread criticism from MPs and other Labour figures, they felt that he was fuelling the impression that Tony Blair has a hidden political agenda.

"The term socialism should be 'humanely phased out'", Mr Howells had written. "I am interested only in convincing the electorate that Labour is seeking contemporary solutions to problems. If that means dropping the epithet 'socialist' so be it."

He added: "We have broken the habit of feeling guilty each time we open our mouths without first genuflecting to socialist shrines. We are campaigning to win the next election because we believe that we can make this country a better place.

"We have no need to diminish that ambition by searching for some ideological holy grail with which to embellish it."

That prompted Mr Edmonds to declare: "The best thing Kim Howells could do is to keep his mouth shut, stop the childish kite-flying and concentrate on winning the election."

Mr Howells's words would have attracted less attention had not Mr Blair already been embroiled in a row about his long-term intentions for Labour. Asked if he was going to

apologise for his remarks, Mr Howells told BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*: "Certainly not. John Edmonds... well, talk about pot calling the kettle black, he's got a view on everything."

He added: "We need to explain to people that we have a pragmatic approach to how best to run this country and that attaching tags to ourselves, calling ourselves socialists or laissez-faire capitalists, does no good in that respect. We must apply contemporary solutions to the problems that face us."

"I think what we mean by socialist — and many people in the Labour Party refer to themselves as socialists — is lots of things which are common to decent Christianity, humanism, trying to treat your neighbour as you treat yourself, looking for justice, fairness and so on."

Mr Howells's audacious treatment of Mr Edmonds was typical of a man who has rarely buttoned his lip for anyone. Mr Howells, 49, a grammar school boy from the South Wales valleys, entered the public eye during the 1984-85 miners' strike when he was South Wales research officer for the National Union of Mineworkers.

He held Arthur Scargill, the NUM President, in contempt for his handling of the strike and made no secret of it. His candour during his short career on the Labour frontbench has already caused him trouble, first with remarks criticising the party's constitutional reforms then with a tribute to market competition.

Tony Banks, another left-winger, told GMTV: "The trouble is that we are getting to the position in the Labour Party where front-bench spokesmen are saying things which are not then denied by the leadership of the Labour Party. But someone like Clare Short can say something and it is immediately jumped on. So you are left wondering whether this is all part of a softening up process."

The Labour leadership took a relaxed line on Mr Howells yesterday. After all, only two weeks ago Mr Blair called him a social democrat. But the Labour leader has been careful not to banish the word "socialism" and has taken to interchanging the creeds of social democracy and democratic socialism.

Leading article, page 21

Pay deal blow for unions

THE trade unions, reeling from reports suggesting that Tony Blair wants to cut them adrift, will suffer another blow this week when Kenneth Clarke confirms that the public sector pay bill is to be frozen for the fourth year in succession. The announcement, which means five million public sector workers receiving pay rises only if they are found to be in line with inflation, is likely to herald a clash between the Government and some unions.

The Chancellor's announcement, which will come in his evidence to the public sector pay review bodies, signals his desire to trim up to £5 billion from savings in department budgets, is likely to herald a clash between the Government and some unions.

Leading article, page 21



Norma sets fashion record straight

By CAROL MIDGLEY

NORMA MAJOR confided to the nation yesterday what had irritated her most about the inaccurate press coverage since her husband became Prime Minister. Her white boots that had first entranced John more than 25 years ago were leather — not plastic as the newspapers had said.

"They cost me an arm and a leg," Mrs Major complained to Sir David Frost, during an interview with screened on BBC1 yesterday. From her whicker easy-chair in the conservatory of the Majors' home in Cambridgeshire, Mrs Major, 54, rejected claims that she was emerging as her husband's secret weapon in the pre-election skirmishing.

Dressed in a pale pink suit, she cut a relaxed, confident figure, very different from the shy, housewife who stood with her husband outside No 10 Downing Street six years ago. She confessed that, looking back, she wished she had not worn a rather frumpish blue suit that day. "I had two blue suits in the wardrobe, and I'd worn the first one and I was going to wear the second one on the second day. John didn't like the other one, so I wore the same one two days running. So I got hampered for wearing the same thing two days running, and the suit was perceived to be a disaster as well."

During *Norma Major: Behind Closed Doors*, Mrs Major, 54, rejected claims that she was emerging as her husband's secret weapon in the pre-election skirmishing.

She spoke of her anger when her family were photographed with telephoto lenses this year aboard a yacht in the south of France. "I think anybody is entitled to



think the public has a right to know everything and be everywhere," she said.

Tony image-makers regard Mrs Major, who has been on the campaign trail with her husband in the past fortnight,

as a trump card for Mr Major and want to capitalise on her down-to-earth approach. They believe the voters will identify with her more than with Tony Blair's wife Cherie Booth, a QC.

But, asked whether she would ever be tempted to copy the wife of US Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole, who walked on to the floor of the recent party convention, proclaiming how much she loved her husband, Mrs Major insisted: "I can't think of anything that would make me want to do that; however much I might love him."

She denied she was taking a more prominent part in her husband's political life, adding: "Perhaps the difference is that maybe what I'm doing is being noticed now, but I don't think I'm about to start doing anything that I haven't been doing for the last five years."

Caesarean rulings

Continued from page 1
tal in labour than a car accident. She was not suffering from any mental disorder and felt able to instruct a solicitor. The judge ruled, however, she was not able to balance information in order to make a choice.

The two decisions are likely to spark renewed controversy over the right of patients to refuse treatment and the circumstances in which it may be overridden by courts in the interest of safeguarding life.

Mrs Hewson said that Mr Justice Johnson had effectively redefined when a woman was competent to take decisions over her treatment, and had ruled that a woman in labour was not. That meant women would not feel able to

challenge medical advice. Previous decisions have involved Jehovah's witnesses, where the court held in 1991 that as a general principle, they could not be compelled to have treatment, although the court left open the possibility of exceptional circumstances in such cases.

In 1993, the President of the Family Division, Sir Stephen Brown, was widely criticised when he sanctioned an operation on a woman whose baby was lodged transversely across her pelvis. She refused consent, believing that "God would provide".

Mr Leigh said that the latest figures showed that between 1991 and 1993 no patient had died after refusing to undergo a caesarean section.

Prince promises Queen he and Camilla will be discreet

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Prince of Wales has promised the Queen that he will keep his friendship with Camilla Parker-Bowles out of the public limelight. She will not accompany him on any official or semi-official engagements or to any public functions in connection with his role as heir to the throne.

Nor will Mrs Parker-

Bowles be included in traditional Royal Family gatherings such as at Christmas and the new year. A friend of the Prince said: "Of course the friendship will stay discreet. It

would be inconceivable for the

Queen and John Major at Balmoral in the weekend but it was not thought they discussed the Prince's relationship in detail. Mr Major's view is that the Royal Family should enjoy a period of calm after the turmoil of royal divorces and that a line should now be drawn under recent events.

He warned the Prince last Christmas that he could not expect to regularise his relationship with Mrs Parker-Bowles for some years without provoking a constitutional crisis. But Mr Major is being kept informed about the possible long-term reforms being discussed by senior members of the Royal Family.

Continued from page 1

follow MPs turning on him. The former minister Gerald Kaufman voiced the feelings in the Blair camp when he warned that anything said by a Labour spokesman that could be exploited or misinterpreted would be used for that purpose. "The only things we should say in public and private are those things which have the greatest possible chance of making Tony Blair prime minister," he said.

Mr Blair believes that Labour has become a victim of its own success and in an article yesterday, he said that the Tories were shutting down government, stoking up the economy and scaring people about Labour by "making us the incumbents".

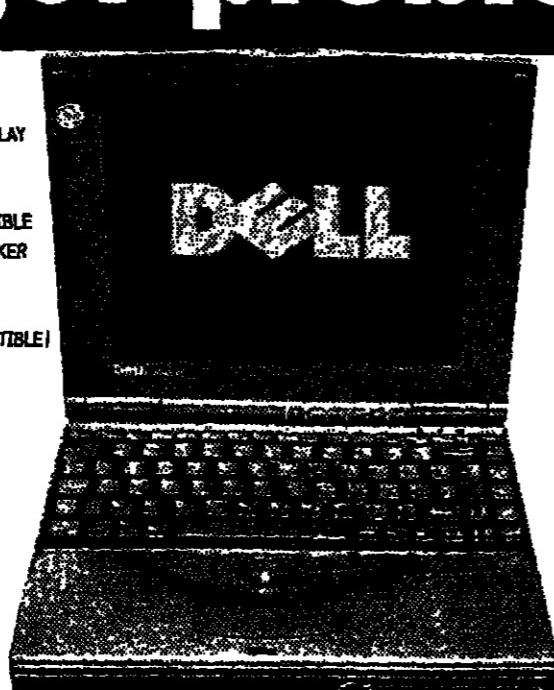
In his speech tonight he will say that the four big challenges for the millennium are making Britain better off; making politicians more accountable and restoring Britain's world influence. The key message to get across, he believes, is that Labour will make the mass of people better off.

According to leadership sources, Mr Blair wants to see the party "buckling down" to fight the Tories and to "stop playing word games." But further pitfalls lie ahead at the conference defeats — particularly over pensions. The former minister Lady Castle yesterday urged him to "quit being scared" and to restore the link between pensions and earnings.

Mr Adams's publisher, Heinemann, says that Jeremy Corbyn, the left-wing Labour MP, is planning to chair a press conference in the Jubilee Room at Westminster for Mr Adams. The press conference will coincide with the publication of Mr Adams's autobiography, entitled *Before the Dawn*.

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مكتبة الأهل

Emergency meeting held as whereabouts of clergyman and nurse remain a mystery

Church hopes to avert crisis over missing bishop

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LEADERS of the Roman Catholic Church were expected to hold an emergency meeting with priests in Oban today as the disappearance of their bishop, the Rt Rev Roderick Wright, threatened to turn into a crisis.

Renewed appeals for Bishop Wright to make contact had failed last night. His close friend Kathleen MacPhee, 40, a nurse at Belford Hospital in Fort William, has also not been seen since last Monday. The Church refused to rule out speculation that the pair may be together.

Churches across the sprawling parish of Argyll and the Isles held special prayers for the bishop yesterday and the service at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban took the theme of forgiveness.

He had tried to contact Cardinal Thomas Winning, the head of the Catholic Church in Scotland, last Monday, but was unsuccessful. Since then he has failed to keep appointments. It is thought he may have gone to Ireland.

In Oban, a picturesque tourist resort on the west coast of Scotland, Bishop Wright's parishioners were anxiously awaiting news with many clinging to the hope he may have gone on retreat to mourn his sister who died of cancer earlier this year. Vicar General

Roddy Macdonald, the bishop's deputy, said: "We are extremely concerned. We are aware of certain rumours concerning his disappearance but feel unable to offer any comment in the absence of any real information. We ask all parishioners to keep the bishop in their prayers."

The bishop and Mrs MacPhee have met regularly since he counselled her after her divorce a number of years ago. Whispers about their increasingly intimate relationship were common currency in Fort William, where it was rumoured the pair had taken holidays together.

Bishop Wright's close associates said his long silence was "unusual".

Mrs MacPhee, said to be a devout Catholic, disappeared after arranging for her ex-husband, William, to look after their youngest daughter Julie Anne, 15. She has two other children, Stephen, 24 and Donald, 18.

Yesterday Mr MacPhee, a building contractor in Fort William, was not available. Neighbours at her semi-detached home near Fort William said they had known of her friendship with the bishop for some time. It is thought they became friends when he was an assistant priest at the town church before becoming a bishop, in December 1990.

Father Tom Connolly, a Church spokesman, said last night: "This situation cannot go on much longer."

Pressure grows on Pope to soften celibacy rule

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE disappearance of Bishop Wright and the speculation regarding his reasons will increase the pressure on the Vatican to soften the Roman Catholic Church's obdurate line on priestly celibacy.

There are an estimated 1,000 men in Britain who have left the Catholic priesthood to get married. In the time of Pope Paul VI, most went through the process of "laicisation", so they could officially leave the

active ministry with the agreement of the Church. These remain priests in law although they are not allowed to practise their ministry except under conditions of duress such as to provide the last rites when none other is available.

However, under the present Pope, laicisation has become "extremely difficult", in the words of one former priest. A process that used to take a few months can now take six years or longer as the Church, unwilling to lose any more of its diminishing priesthood in the West, delays the process in the hope that many might change their mind and return to the celibate ministry willingly.

Adding to the pressure has been the acceptance into the Catholic Church of dozens of former Anglican clergy, many of whom are married, but who have left the Church of England after the General Synod's decision to allow women to be ordained priests. In a few weeks, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, will ordain 11 married former Anglicans to the priesthood.

While married Anglicans with children are being admitted, many of them working in parishes.

Celibacy has been a requirement of the Latin church only since the 11th century, although it was a strong tradition from the days of the early church. Until the 11th century, there were many married priests and bishops. Celibacy was introduced as a requirement partly because of the New Testament principle that this was the best path to perfection and to prevent priests from passing church property to their families.

Hume deplores 'fantasies' created by society's obsession with sex

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

CARDINAL Hume yesterday attacked society's "endless obsession" with sex and called for a change in a culture which equates physical relations with love.

In a speech welcomed by other denominations, the Roman Catholic leader said sexual obsessions had led to "unreal fantasies" and false expectations of what was required for human happiness.

Addressing the Catholic Advisory Council, now known as Marriage Care, in Manchester on its fifth anniversary, the Archbishop of Westminster also called on the Government for more support for marriage and the family. While over £200 million was spent through the legal aid budget on family litigation, less than £4 million of taxpayers' money went on marriage support - a "ludicrous imbalance". He said children's

views of the world were formed early on and a good marriage would fashion a child's own attitude to it, while a bad one could lead to disillusionment not just with marriage but the whole world.

"No society can afford to neglect the health of the family," he said. "The nurturing of children is the most primitive and profound human endeavour, and we are very far from giving due recognition and support to parents who stay at home to do this." Parents who wished to look after their children at home needed better help from employment, housing and the tax and benefit system, he added.

In his first major address on sex since the controversy over the Government's divorce law reforms, Cardinal Hume said that sexual freedom of choice had been idolised to the exclusion of all other values. This



Hume urged more support for families

speak about love and sex. However, he was still human and received the confidences of other people. "If, as seems prevalent today, it is taken for granted that there is no connection at all between the unitive and procreative, then the true significance of the full expression of human love is radically distorted," he said.

Cardinal Hume admitted

Catholic teachings presented humanity with very high ideals, but said the Church was only pointing to what it was to be human, and what humans needed for fulfilment.

The Archbishop's address

was welcomed by the Church of England's Board for Social Responsibility, chaired by the Bishop of Oxford. The Rev Richard Thomas, the bishop's spokesman, said: "Society has taken the celebration of sex out of its context of the whole human person and turned sex into an object of its own right. That inevitably distorts it."

had led to people regarding sexual relationships confined within marriage as an unobtainable commitment. Sex should be seen as a gift from God, fundamentally good yet open to abuse, and treated with "reverence and respect, protection and self-discipline".

Cardinal Hume admitted his disaffection as a celibate to

Hotels ban the riffraff who 'put diners off their food'

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

John Cleese as Fawlty: trend-setter for hoteliers

BASIL FAWLTY would have been delighted. The man who launched gourmet evenings at *Fawlty Towers* with an advert proclaiming "No riffraff" was ahead of his time.

A survey has revealed that hoteliers at middle-range establishments are reintroducing dress codes, following complaints from a growing number of guests that their enjoyment of meals was being spoilt by scruffy and unkempt fellow diners.

The swing back to a more conservative style is most marked among three-star hotels, according to the study by the British Hospitality Association and the magazine *Caterer and Hotelkeeper*. Tattoos and unconventional haircuts are now banned from nearly half the three-star hotels questioned in the survey.

Jeremy Logie, chief executive of the BHA, said: "There is a reaction against sloppiness. No one is suggesting that

everyone is forced to wear jacket and tie at all times, but people wearing football shirts or T-shirts does detract from the pleasure some may get from dining out."

Over one third of the 500 hotels which took part in the survey had a dress code. Holiday resort hotels in particular have acknowledged that many guests are keen to dress up for dinner. Joan Reen, proprietor of

Teenagers killed in car crash

BY JOEL WOLCHOVER

FOUR teenagers died when their car went out of control in a Dorset village where building work is due to start soon on a bypass following a spate of similar accidents.

The youths aged between 17 and 19, were believed to have been passing through the village of Puddletown, near Dorchester, on their way home early yesterday morning when their car overshot a T-junction and crashed into a garden wall.

Firemen had to cut the bodies of the youths from the wreckage. Families of the dead, all from Dorset, have been informed. Police were last night waiting until the victims had been formally identified before releasing further details.

Funding has already been secured for a bypass to take traffic away from Puddletown, and signs have been erected saying roadworks are due to begin.



Kathleen MacPhee was counselled after her divorce by Bishop Wright, seen below left at the Vatican with Cardinal Winning and other Scottish bishops



Women said, 'What a waste of dream man'

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

IN HAPPIER times the Rt Rev Roderick Wright was affectionately nicknamed "Bishop Starsky" because of his resemblance to Paul Michael Glaser from the 1970s television series *Starsky and Hutch*.

Even in his late 40s and early 50s, his seemingly timeless good looks meant the 6 ft tall, silver-haired cleric managed to set pulses racing among women in his congregation at Corpach and Fort William where he was parish priest from 1987 until 1991.

One woman parishioner admitted: "He was every woman's dream. We used to say, 'What a waste of a man.'"

A keen sea fisherman, walker and unreconstructed chain-smoker, Bishop Wright, 56, is widely considered an affable and honorable man, who found it easy to win loyal friends. He advised Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, when she converted to Catholicism in 1994. Yesterday she said: "I know him to be sensitive, compassionate and caring and a tremendously good pastor. He has been a kind and good friend."

Bishop Wright lived alone in a house beside St Columba's Catholic Cathedral in Oban. He is known to have liberal views on celibacy in the priesthood, being one of three Scottish bishops who in 1992 supported calls for a review in the Catholic Church which would allow priests to marry.

Born in Glasgow and brought up in a three-room city flat in Kinnin Park, Bishop Wright was the son of an Eriskay seaman and a South Uist woman. One sister died earlier this year and her loss, 18 months after his mother died, caused him a great deal of heartache.

His education took him from St Gerrard's School in Glasgow, to St Mary's College at Blair's in Aberdeen, and finally to St Peter's College, Cardross, Lanarkshire, where he studied philosophy and theology. He was ordained into the archdiocese of Glasgow the day after his 24th

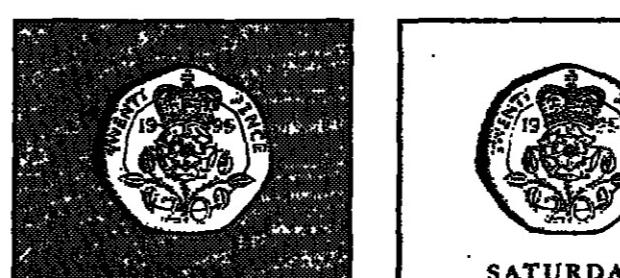
followed by a similar post in Fort William until 1980. Father Wright then moved to the Western Isles where he was highly regarded as a charismatic preacher. He was parish priest at St Michael's, Ardkeneth, in his mother's former home island of South Uist, from 1980 to 1987.

In 1992 when the Catholic church was rocked by the scandal of Eamonn Casey, the Bishop of Galway, who fathered a child, Bishop Wright predicted there would be more flexibility on celibacy. "It is something that is being questioned. But I don't see any conflict if married men were ordained," he said.

followed by a similar post in



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An advertisement for CGA Insurance. It features a black and white photograph of a Parker pen lying horizontally across the top half of the ad. The pen has 'PARKER' and 'INK' embossed on its barrel. Below the pen, the word 'FREE' is written in large, bold, capital letters. To the right of 'FREE', the words 'Parker Pen' are written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. A thick horizontal line runs from the end of 'FREE' to the start of 'Parker Pen'. Below this line, the text 'When you call CGA direct
for home or motor
insurance' is displayed in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom left, the phone number '0800 525 200' is shown in large, bold digits. A small 'M-F 9am-5pm' is printed below it. The bottom right corner contains a stylized graphic of the letters 'L' and 'E'.

Phone watchdogs plan punchline for cruel joke calls

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS the latest practical joke sweeping the workplace. Victims pick up their telephone extension to find themselves being insulted, ordered to support illegitimate children by the social services or called up to fight in Bosnia.

The voice turns out to be a recorded message from a premium-rate phone service. Now watchdogs say the joke has gone too far. They are targeting the joke lines after a huge number of complaints.

The prank works by leaving a message for the victim to call a number or by transferring a call to their extension. Voice-activated computers give the illusion that the caller is having a conversation with a real person.

Office workers use them to embarrass colleagues and employers. Many find the "humour" cruel and frightening. The calls can cost 49p a minute.

A fine of £3,402 — the highest against a joke line — has been imposed by the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Services, the watchdog for premium-rate services. It had received 25 complaints against Progressive Telelink of Bristol, including breaking rules on pricing, failing to state that the service was for entertainment only, and having unreasonable delays.

Among its jokes was a bogus call-up to fight in Bos-

nia the following week, with an order to be in Aldershot by the morning for bayonet practice. A woman who advertises a menu of jokes on an information line says: "This joke is particularly good if your friend has any association with the military."

Another involved a bailiff claiming to be on the way to the victim's home to seize goods because of unpaid poll tax, but suggesting he will go away if bribed. There is a ratcatcher who says he has mistakenly smashed up the victim's home after getting the wrong address.

"Mr Insult" makes a series of increasingly insulting comments. "No — You Called Me" involved a madman who had escaped from an asylum. A "misid" service lets the caller believe he is accidentally overhearing two Scotland Yard police officers planning to "fix up" a bishop.

There has also been a bogus pool win and a call from "a solicitor in Australia" keen to talk because a distant relative had left the victim £1,533,000.

"The most hilarious particular for married men is 'You're a Father — Now Let's Talk About Maintenance,'" says the information line. The victim is told that a social services agency wanted him to pay for triplets he fathered two years earlier. "At the end, when your friend is completely freaked out, social services discloses the children are Chi-

Women tough it out for Pole trek

BY JENNIFER COX

AFTER a breathless weekend on Dartmoor the all-women team who will trek by relays to the North Pole next year were named yesterday.

A mother and daughter and a great niece of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother are among the 20 chosen from an original 60 hopefuls to make the 1,000-kilometre journey from north Canada in eight teams of two.

In the second of two route marches on the moors, the women had to show team spirit as well as individual enterprise and endurance to secure a place. Midnight abseiling, swimming with 30lb rockseals across a freezing moorland lake and running a timed 1½ miles after a simulated search and rescue at 2am were a few of the tasks that they were expected to complete without a grumble.

Joke lines have to obey the laws which apply to all telephone calls. Trading standards officers can prosecute if they are fraudulent and the police can investigate if they are obscene. The supervisory body, which has had 143 complaints about the lines this year, provides a safety net by applying a code of practice which includes harm to children and racism. It has powers to confiscate the entire profits for any line.



Victoria and Sue Riches, the daughter and mother chosen for the all-women relay trek to the North Pole

through the course were

"among the strongest, most

congregants I have ever met".

Sue and Victoria Riches

are hoping to be paired for

one of the polar relay legs.

Mrs Riches said: "I was 50

this year and decided I want-

ed to do something. My

daughter said she was going

to have a go and asked why

didn't I try as well." Victoria,

who led a singing chorus to

maintain morale through the

weekend, added: "It is bril-

liant to be going with my

mother. We will make a great

team." Rosie Clayton, 34, a

London PR executive, the

Queen Mother's great niece,

said the Pole was "just the

best challenge".

The chosen women will

now begin training. Each will

be asked to maintain their

own fitness programmes and

to attend training weekends

before the expedition, led by

Caroline Hamilton, 32, a

London-based film financier,

starts next March.

Only two women, one

American and one Japanese,

have reached the Pole, but

they were part of larger men's

expeditions.

'I was confused and frightened'

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY



WENDY LAW, 60, picked up a noise put through her door asking her to telephone a number urgently.

"I didn't recognise the number. The call was full of abuse. He said, 'It's about time you so-and-so phoned'. The frightening bit was he said, 'Where's that cheque? I was confused. I thought I didn't owe any money. I couldn't understand what this cheque was,' the retired telephone switchboard operator from Penge said.

"It's supposed to be a computer-operated voice, so the more you talk the more it goes on. I kept saying, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Don't interrupt me. Don't you talk to me when I am talking to you.' I was getting a bit unnerved about it so I put the phone down. I called the police and said I had been frightened by an offensive call. They didn't want to know. They said it was one of these wind-up things."

Another woman was so upset when she dialled a Mr Angry-type service that she called police and told them to arrest the man for being rude on the telephone. The officers explained that they were powerless to intervene because the culprit was a voice-activated

computer using a tape recording of an actor.

A third woman collapsed when she dialled a "car crash" line, where a driver speaking on his mobile phone begins screaming that he is about to collide, followed by a loud bang. One caller telephoned 999 to report an accident after falling for the same trick.

The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Services is considering introducing a new rule into its code of practice next year to insist the practical joke services contain a message at the beginning stating they are for entertainment only.

Conscription boy faces £11,000 bill

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Foreign Office is seeking to confirm Iranian claims that a British schoolboy conscripted while on holiday in Tehran was the victim of a misunderstanding. But the family of Reza Afshar, 17, fear they might have to pay £11,000 to buy him out of two years' national service.

Reza, from Marlow, Buckinghamshire, who was born in Britain and has dual nationality, was stopped as he was about to board a plane home last month while travelling on an Iranian passport. They claimed new regulations qualified him for army service. His mother and sister had to fly home while he stayed with relatives in Tehran.

Mohammad Safaei, deputy head of mission at the Iranian Embassy in London, said

there might have been confusion over documents. Nobody under 18 had to do military service, he said. "Even someone over 18 does not have to do the service if they are studying and anyone can pay money to get out of doing it."

A Foreign Office spokesman said last night: "We are aware of what the Iranian Embassy has said and we are seeking to confirm that with the authorities in Tehran."

Reza is taking 4 A levels and is seeking a place at the London School of Economics. His sister said Mrs Afshar would find it hard to raise the money. "We are not upset with the Iranian Government. We understand the situation when we travel on our Iranian passport and we will pay the money and obey the law."

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Prospect of gold rush divides a cream-tea Devon town

By BILL FROST

A TRANQUIL Devon town sitting on gold deposits is divided over the possibility that the price of seeking the mother lode might be serious environmental damage. Geologists are confident that Crediton could be a West Country Klondike, but some local people fear that their quality of life might be blighted by mining operations.

Preliminary tests have shown traces of gold in streams and a Dublin-based company is ready to spend at least £1 million on more

detailed surveys. A spokesman for Minmet said: "The case for looking down here in Devon is pretty overwhelming."

The gold is thought to lie in the so-called Crediton Trough, an area with geological similarities to gold-rich parts of Australia and South Africa. The Devon seam, if work goes ahead, might yield big profits and create up to 300 jobs in an area of high unemployment.

There is concern in Crediton. "Our local industry is cream tea, not prospecting for gold," one trader said yesterday. Gillian Ponsford,

the Mayor, said: "We are cautious at the moment and concerned about damage to the environment. We live in such a beautiful area that we would not want to do anything to ruin it."

Paul Edwards, the Green Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Exeter, said: "The problem with any mining operation is that it can be devastating to the environment. I would like to know how they plan to contain that damage. Personally, I do not think that is possible."

Richard Scrivener, of the British

Geographical Society, which carried out the original survey, said that bedrock sampling at the Crediton Trough revealed substantial traces of arsenic and antimony — "pathfinder elements" normally found where gold was present too.

"As yet we have no idea how rich the seam may be but samples so far have yielded reasonably high-grade deposits. Much more work will have to be done before we know if this is an enormous mother lode or just enough to make half a dozen wedding rings," he added.

"Gold has been found in Devon

and Cornwall before by tin miners. We have no real idea about its quality though, because in those days they used to take it themselves as a perk in a low-paid job."

Jeremy Metcalfe, chairman of the newly established Crediton Minerals, a Minmet subsidiary, said that any mine shaft sunk in the future would be barely noticeable. He added: "As a Devon man myself, I am very sensitive about the environment. I fully understand why people are concerned but I want to assure them that there is no need to worry should the county council grant

permission for us to go ahead. We will undertake an environmental impact study, which covers everything from sound and dust to noise, water and transport."

Mr Metcalfe is not without allies in Crediton. Jeremy Lee, chairman of the chamber of commerce, said: "This is very welcome because small towns like Crediton are having a very hard time at the moment. The benefit would be in employment and in spin-offs with such a large project near by. A vast amount of businesses would gain from any gold rush."

LIAM DANIEL

Computer hitch halts profiles of criminals

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A £30 million Home Office project to create a detailed database of convictions and intelligence on every criminal in Britain has been crippled because millions of records cannot be put on to the computer. The system, named Phoenix, went live last year but only a tenth of the records is in the database. Police are still sending away by post for copies of another three million records.

Phoenix has been hailed as a breakthrough in reducing bureaucracy and speeding investigations but its difficulties are the latest in a series of disasters which have overtaken attempts to hitch policing to high technology. Last week *The Times* reported that the Home Office had admitted that the national DNA database had a huge backlog of samples waiting to be processed.

The heart of the Phoenix problem is the "back record conversion" of material on paper and microfiche into computer data. A senior police source said that some records came out as "gobbledygook" and others needed to be adjusted before they could be read. Another 300,000 records have been successfully processed into the computer but a police source said that they may not be sufficiently comprehensive.

An £8.6 million contract with the PCL computing company to prepare the three million records for loading on to the computer was terminated last month by mutual agreement. Many of the records have been converted and most of the cost had been met. The company is still working on a section of the Phoenix project.

Home Office officials are blaming the disaster on technical difficulties, complex equipment and the nature of the records, but there has already been dispute over the project. Last year there were questions in the Commons about the progress being made by PCL and criticisms of the amount of training police would get to use the system.

Phoenix was designed to give police officers a full record of convictions and de-

tails such as modus operandi, associates and distinguishing marks. It combined the national criminal records collection and data on a special form used by individual forces when a suspect was charged.

At the touch of a button officers sitting in a station or squad office could call up a list of suspects, analyse a crime against the records or look at geographic patterns. Police could also enter records into the system themselves. When Phoenix was launched in May last year Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, told the police that Phoenix was "perhaps the most significant service introduced during the past 20 years".

Eventually Phoenix will become part of a single national criminal justice computer network serving not only the police but the courts, the Prison Service and the Probation Service.

It is also intended to provide the basis of the criminal records agency announced this summer which will vet prospective employees on behalf of employers.

A senior detective said: "It's not the all-singing, all-dancing system we would have hoped for. I think it is retrievable but it is disappointing." A chief constable said that there was too much pressure by police and officials to start using the systems before making sure that everything was working properly.

Maria Wallis, Assistant Chief Constable of Sussex and one of the officers overseeing the project, confirmed that there were problems and that Phoenix would not be able to give the range of analysis and records police had hoped to get. She said: "It is an analytical tool but it does not provide me with the mechanics to search for methods or a geographical area."

The Home Office blamed "the complex technology" for the problems with Phoenix and said that the records successfully placed on the computer covered offenders who had been convicted since 1981, and were full records. Only those convicted before 1981 would remain outside the system.

Phoenix was designed to give police officers a full record of convictions and de-

Barnstaple blossoms as a top European beauty

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE Devon town of Barnstaple has walked off with a top European environmental "beauty" prize, much to the surprise of many who know the town well. But despite being one of the lesser known tourist attractions in the West Country, the town's floral displays were judged the best in Europe, perhaps because the local councillors cannot replace a flower-decked model Spitfire with Concorde.

The model of the Anglo-French supersonic jet which dominates the town's square so impressed judges in the pan-European *Entente Florale* competition that they had little hesitation in granting Barnstaple a gold award and

sers decided that to ensure none of the European judges took offence, it would be better to have a Concorde in flowers than a Spitfire, and it obviously worked.

Alan Clark, of North Devon District Council, said: "We are all thrilled by the victory and the town is a blaze of colour and really looks wonderful now."

Already the town has benefited from its victory in the national competition with an influx of coach tours from around the country. Now Europeans are also expected to flock in to see the flowers, planted after Faye Webber, vice-chairman of the council, raised £50,000 from local businesses.

Mrs Webber said in Eger, Hungary — itself former victor in the competition — where the prizewinners were announced: "I am absolutely thrilled. We are particularly well known for our busy lizzies balls."

Now Barnstaple, which is at the head of the Taw estuary and was one of the four original boroughs of Devon, will be able to take part in the worldwide competition and is open to suggestions to what it should create as the centre-piece when the blooms on Concorde have faded after the Barnstaple fair this week.

£3,000 awarded for holiday upset

By A STAFF REPORTER

WHEN Grant and Yvonne Moss arrived on the holiday desert island of their dreams they expected to walk hand in hand on a palm-fringed Indian Ocean beach.

Instead, they watched as excavators and dumper trucks roared up and down the dry Maldivian island of Lankafunolu. Work started at 6.30am each day.

After the 19-night stay, the couple were offered £500 compensation from Trade Winds holidays. They asked for £1,000, but were refused. A judge has awarded them a full refund of £3,000.

Mr Moss, 35, of Studley, Hereford and Worcester, said: "Our holiday was totally ruined. We were more stressed than before we got there. We are very happy with the outcome."

Now Barnstaple, which is at the head of the Taw estuary and was one of the four original boroughs of Devon, will be able to take part in the worldwide competition and is open to suggestions to what it should create as the centre-piece when the blooms on Concorde have faded after the Barnstaple fair this week.

Paraglider crashes on to house

By JOEL WOLCHOVER

A PARAGLIDER who crashed through the roof of a house in the Peak District was critically ill last night.

Ian Rodger, 32, a solicitor from Sheffield, fell head first and had to be freed by firefighters after becoming trapped in the attic. He was taken to Sheffield's Hallamshire Hospital, where his condition was described as serious but stable.

Dozens of onlookers had

watched Mr Rodger circling low over the village of Hathersage, Derbyshire, not realising he was struggling to open his reserve parachute. Liz Wain, 41, who lives opposite the scene of the accident, said: "He seemed to be tangled up in his parachute strings. He was struggling to untangle himself. The next thing, he went straight into the roof of the house opposite."

"The noise was terrible. I don't know how to describe it. You would have thought a plane had hit the house, not just a person." Mrs Wain said that two local doctors were on the scene within minutes of the accident on Saturday.

The British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association said that their members undertook 500,000 flights a year and about 150 accidents were reported.

Father drowns in dinghy accident

By JOEL WOLCHOVER

A MAN died when a small wooden dinghy carrying two adults and four children capsized in darkness off Salcombe estuary, Devon.

Stuart Wheyman, 52, drowned after being thrown into the sea on Saturday night. His wife, Rowena, their daughter Tyrina, 12, and nine-year-old son Nicholas were also tipped into the water, along with the son and daughter of a neighbouring family who had been allowed to join the boating trip.

When the dinghy capsized the party, none of whom was wearing life jackets, had been racing after a night out ashore to a larger yacht moored in the estuary. The accident started a frantic rescue effort involving residents and the emergency services.

The four youngsters were rescued from the water by instructors from a local sailing club, while the adults were taken ashore by yachtsmen from boats moored in the estuary near by. One of the rescuers, a nurse, tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate Mr Wheyman and gave first aid to Mrs Wheyman, who was later flown by RAF Sea King helicopter to a hospital in Plymouth.

A spokesman for Devon police said: "The occupants of

Moors body is to be reburied

The body of the Moors murderer Lesley Ann Downey is to be exhumed and reburied after attacks on her grave. The family of the girl, killed by Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, have begun proceedings to have the body moved to a secret place.

They are writing to the Bishop of Manchester seeking his permission. The church said it would not stand in the way of the request from Ann, 67, Miss West's mother. Mrs West, who suffered a breakdown after the attack on the grave in Manchester, said the only way to avoid further vandalism was to move the body.

Railway deal

Workers with North West Regional Railways and Regional Railways North East have called off a planned strike after reaching agreement on working hours. The union RMT is still in dispute with 13 other regional railway companies.

War hero dies

Wing Commander Clive Beadon, whose valour as a bomber pilot during the Burma Campaign against Japan won him the DFC, died on Saturday at the age of 77. After leaving the RAF in 1966 he became an authority on dowsing. Obituary, page 23

Patient found

A dangerous patient who absconded from a secure unit at a psychiatric hospital near Royston, Hertfordshire, was found nearly 400 miles away in the Strathclyde area. Daniel Reynolds, 29, absconded on Thursday from Kneeshaw House.

Big picture show

Wide choice offered by giant multiplex cinemas has meant that 12 per cent of adults go to see a film each month, said the market analysts Mintel. Total spending this year is likely to be £612 million, a quarter going on merchandise such as popcorn.

Road arrests

Police made 36 arrests after a street "protest party" on a main road into Cambridge turned violent. About 400 anti-road protesters had earlier blocked the street but as night fell police came under attack from people throwing missiles.

Wind of change

Bridlington is planning to build seven wind turbines on the edge of the east Yorkshire resort to produce power to run lighting along the promenade. East Riding Council is to erect one turbine for a three-day demonstration to test local opinion.

Cows shot on Al

Police marksmen shot three cows after they repeatedly wandered on to the Al at Balderton, Nottinghamshire, early yesterday, causing at least two minor accidents. No one was hurt. Police said the shootings had been requested by a farmer and a vet.



Secret life of Wilde as ideal husband

By DALYA ALBERG
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a century after his death, a new film is remembering Oscar Wilde in the way he wanted: "Something more than a man with a tragic vice in his life. There is so much more in me, and I always was a good father to both my children."

The makers of *Wilde* intend to balance his homosexuality, for which he was imprisoned, with his tender love for his wife, Constance, and two sons. Filming took place last week in east London of the soiree at which he met his bride, played by Jennifer Ehle, best known capturing the heart of Darcy as Lizzy Bennett in television's *Pride and Prejudice*.

The producers, brothers Marc and Peter Samuelson, said they felt that the Victorian writer's scandalous affair with Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas, which led to his downfall and exile, painted an incomplete picture of the man. Peter said:

"Oscar also loved his wife and two sons very deeply. At the end of his life, the fact that he was separated from them was perhaps what ultimately destroyed him. In the past, Constance has been a little bit forgotten."

On location at an 1840s house in Mile End, the actor and writer Stephen Fry emerged in a cream tail coat

and long wig to play the man who is one of his heroes. He believes that Wilde has been misunderstood as brittle and superficial: "He wasn't. I've been researching Wilde all my life. I've been passionate about him since I was 11."

Asked what Wilde might have made of his portrayal, Fry drew an analogy with Daniel Massey asking his godfather, Noel Coward, how he had fared in his depiction of him. "Too many dear boys," came the reply. Mr Fry added: "I only hope Oscar would be gracious."

Richard Ellmann's definitive biography, is by Julian Mitchell, whose previous work includes *Another Country*.

Constance Wilde ultimately fled the country with her children and changed the family name to Holland, always hoping that Wilde would return. Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, said: "I am pleased to see they have brought Constance and the family because they were an important part of his life. You only have to read his letters to see that From prison, he wrote that it broke his heart to

realise what he had done to them."

Mr Holland singled out the letter written to a friend in March 1897, when the court had made his wife guardian of the children: "I do hope the court will see in me something more than a man with a tragic vice in his life. There is so much more in me, and I always was a good father to both my children. I love them dearly and was dearly loved by them. It would be better for them not to be forced to think of me as an outcast, but to know me as a man who has suffered."

The producers noted how the two films made in the Sixties — Peter Finch in *The Trials of Oscar Wilde* and Robert Morley in *Oscar Wilde* — could not focus enough on the homosexuality "to say what it was that was making everyone upset".

Reading council may place a memorial outside the prison. Wilde would be flattered. As he once said: "There is only one thing worse than being talked about. That is not being talked about."

Before he was given a place in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey a few years ago, there were fears that his homosexuality would bar him from that honour but his following today is stronger than ever. His grave in Paris has become a place of pilgrimage.

THE centenary of Oscar Wilde's release from Reading Gaol in May 1897, where he was imprisoned for his homosexuality, will be marked by numerous events.

Apart from *Wilde*, the film, there are plans for several memorials, including two statues, and a competition for creative writing by prisoners in Reading prison, today a young offenders' institution and remand centre. The small cell in which Wilde was kept has survived.

The British Library is discussing a major Wilde exhibition for 2000, the centenary of his death. Among celebratory events planned for 1997, Dub-

lin's Wilde bicentenary, is hoping to erect a multicoloured statue while London intends to erect a statue in the heart of theatreland.

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Breedlove heads for sound barrier

FROM GILES WHITTELL
ON BONNEVILLE
SALT FLATS, UTAH

WITH the power of ten dragsters — or 48,000 horses — mounted inches behind his head, Craig Breedlove, the veteran speed addict, is due today to begin testing what he hopes will be the world's first supersonic car on the blinding white salt speedway here.

After four years of planning, fundraising and precision welding, the unflappable Californian who was the first to exceed 400, 500 and 600mph on land, set up camp on this vast dry lake bed at the weekend. Burning two gallons of fuel a second, the jet that fills the Spirit of America's slim body once powered a US Navy Phantom fighter and is easily powerful enough to push its new pilot beyond the sound barrier, he believes.

Richard Noble, the Briton who has held the current record of 633mph since 1983, intends to defend it with his new twin-engined Thrust SSC car. Tests on it could go ahead in Jordan later this year. An Australian is also mounting a challenge in November.

Accelerating across the desert towards Mach 1, Breedlove will experience G-forces like those felt by combat pilots, but without the benefit of a pressurised suit for which there is no room in his cramped cockpit. Should he break the sound barrier, a shock wave will spread out from his composite graphite nose cone with unpredictable results. "There is research on what happens when you do this eight miles up, but not down here," said Dezo Molnar, Breedlove's crew chief. "You're sending one shock wave into the air and one into hard ground."

"In these vehicles you don't have accidents," one of his assistants said. "You either walk away or you're gone."



Breedlove after he broke 600mph barrier



An American visitor examines his car, damaged by a tree felled in La Paz, Mexico, by Hurricane Fausto. The storm was downgraded at the weekend but not before it had damaged 1,700 homes in Baja California province and killed an American tourist. Some residents were evacuated from the northwestern state of Sonora

New strategy casts Dole as champion of family values

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE will reintroduce himself as the principled leader of American values today, unveiling a package of anti-crime and drug proposals designed to capture the many voters who believe that the United States has slipped into moral decline.

In a dual strategy, devised to promote Mr Dole as a war hero and man of character while tearing down President Clinton in a series of negative advertisements, the Republican candidate's revamped campaign team is convinced he can swiftly cut the President's double-digit lead by next month.

The new focus on what his aides describe as the "moral deterioration" under Mr Clinton hopes to recast Mr Dole in the mould of Pat Buchanan, the radical commentator whose message proved popular in the Republican primaries this year. The move by Mr Dole coincides with a new survey showing that the electorate was most concerned about the issues of criminality, drug abuse, a decline in spiritual values and a worsening education system, rather than the economy.

In Philadelphia today, Mr Dole will announce proposals to counter drug use and violent crime, and will portray Mr Clinton as the author of a decaying code of values.

"Drug use among our youth has more than doubled since President Clinton took office," said Mr Dole in his weekly radio address. "And since drugs lead to violence, it's no surprise that youth violence is also on the rise."

The Dole plan would keep violent criminals in prison longer, provide tougher sentences for juvenile offenders, require more inmates to work, renew the commitment to fighting drugs and vigorously prosecute criminals who use guns.

"Crime, and the drug issue that affects crime, will be one of the most important messages of this campaign," said Greg Stevens, a leading consultant in the new Dole team employed last week. "It's a good issue for Bob Dole and a bad issue for Bill Clinton."

Mr Stevens and Alex Castellanos, his partner, are masters at exploiting so-called wedge issues such as crime, capital punishment, affirmative action and gay rights.

In a series of new commercials to begin this week, Mr Dole's heroic record in the Second World War will be linked to America's growing

"moral crisis". At the same time, the new team will blast Mr Clinton on the question of veracity. "The record has got to be set straight here," Mr Castellanos said. "It must be very liberating to be unencumbered by having to tell the truth. He's painting Bob Dole as the kind of man who wants senior citizens to starve and babies to die. What won't Bill Clinton do to win?"

In a further sign that he hopes to steal the moral high ground from Mr Clinton, who had been deliberately cast as the President for family values at the Chicago convention, Mr Dole made an unscheduled appearance this weekend at the Christian Coalition conference in Washington.

Clinton health: The White House has also defused another issue, which Republicans had hoped might be linked to the President's character, by releasing an 11-page statement about the Clinton health record. The report ended speculation about whether Mr Clinton might have a venereal disease or be HIV-positive, said that the President had no history of sexually transmitted disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer or heart disease.

Cambodia rebels split by pardon

A PARDON by King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia for Ieng Sary, the rebel Khmer Rouge leader the monarch once called "my worst enemy", will open the way for a peace deal and co-operation between the Cambodian Army and a Khmer Rouge faction against Pol Pot, analysts said yesterday (James Pringle writes).

Ieng Sary was sentenced to death for genocide after the Khmer Rouge was ousted. King Sihanouk signed the amnesty on Saturday in the interests of reconciliation.

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high

China starts purge of Dalai Lama's Tibet strongholds

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A SWEEPING purge of Tibet's anti-Chinese Buddhist temples has begun as Peking intensifies its "strike hard" drive to compel loyalty among the turbulent clergy and to curb their devotion to the Dalai Lama.

The drive — aimed at "bases of splitists' activities ... and monks and nuns who have become the backbone of the splitists", according to the official newspaper *Tibet Daily* — will focus on the Sera, Drepung, and Ganden monasteries near the capital, Lhasa. Vast complexes of temples and domestic buildings, the three have been the focus of repeated crackdowns by the Chinese since the 1950s; Ganden, which is perched on a mountain, was nearly obliterated by dynamiting during the Cultural Revolution.

Raidi, a leading pro-Peking Tibetan official, told the paper: "Some temples are strongholds of Dalai Lama splitist thinking." He said Sera,

Drepung and Ganden had been chosen "to gain experience" for a wider crackdown.

The nationwide "strike hard" campaign against criminals began in April. By June, according to the authorities, it had resulted in the arrests in Tibet of 187 people, the smashing of 287 criminal cases and the seizure of 34 guns and quantities of ammunition and explosives.

Earlier this month, details of the crackdown were leaked to the London-based Tibet Information Network which quoted Chinese documents demanding that monks exhibit patriotism, opposition to the Dalai Lama, and co-operation in fostering the "harmony of religion and socialism".

Monks who displayed a "bad attitude" would be expelled from monasteries, according to the documents.

The effort to compel Tibet's clergy to abandon the Dalai Lama has been continuous and is unlikely to succeed any

better this time than it has in the past.

The Dalai Lama, regarded



The Dalai Lama greets supporters in Melbourne yesterday on a visit to Australia

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Split at Vatican as Pope faces sixth operation

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE Vatican has admitted that the Pope's mysterious recurrent illnesses are due to inflammation of the appendix, and says he will have an operation by the end of the year.

The announcement reportedly followed a row within the Vatican over how much to divulge about the Pope's health, and failed to halt talk of a vacuum at the top.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman, said the pontiff, 76, would go ahead with his controversial trip to France on Thursday and a beatification ceremony early next month. He will then undergo surgery. "There is no special concern," Dr Navarro-Valls said. "But it is better to intervene from the surgical point of view to solve this recurring problem." He emphasised that there was no sign of a tumour of the kind removed from the Pope's colon in 1992.

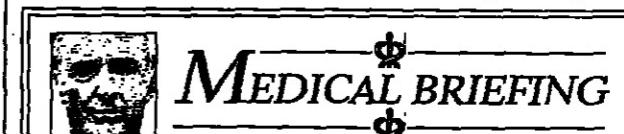
According to well-placed sources, however, the decision to "come clean" over the Pope's illness follows a row between Dr Navarro-Valls and senior Vatican figures, including Stanislaw Dziwisz, the Pope's Polish private secretary, and Renato Buzzonetti, the papal doctor. They were said to have conveyed the Pope's "displeasure" over the

It was reported at the weekend that Dr Navarro-Valls had offered to resign after criticism from the Pope's immediate entourage over this attempt at Vatican glasnost, but the pontiff had asked him to stay. Dr Buzzonetti yesterday confined himself to the terse declaration that, after consulting four other Vatican doctors, he had concluded that surgery for "recurring inflammation of the appendix" was the best course.

The admission that the Pope is to have his sixth operation since coming to the Holy See in 1978 has not halted reports that the continuing uncertainty is paralysing decision-making in the Vatican. Last week *La Repubblica* published what it said was an interview with an anonymous Vatican "monsignor", who expressed concern over the vacuum at the top. *L'Avenir*, the Catholic daily, which voices the view of the Italian church hierarchy, accused *La Repubblica* of playing "macabre games", and suggested the "monsignor" did not exist.

But the article accurately reflected what is being said in the Vatican corridors of power. "John Paul II is a one-man band, and the band is not playing," one insider said. Suggestions of a rift have led to reports in the French media before the papal visit that he might become the first Pope since the 13th century to step down voluntarily.

Papal spokesman unlikely to win prizes for surgery



A DIAGNOSIS of chronic appendicitis, the "grumbling appendix" so beloved of my Edwardian forbears, would be unlikely to win high marks for Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman and former doctor, if ever he had to resit the finals of his surgery exams.

The concept that recurrent inflammation of the appendix can be a cause of intermittent lower right-sided abdominal pain and a temperature is now rejected. But experienced doctors know that some patients with these symptoms do get better after their appendix has been removed.

It is to be hoped that the Pope, who has suffered from these troubles for some months, and whose symptoms, it is admitted, have mystified his doctors, will be one of those who recover after an appendectomy.

One possible cause for the Pope's pain and intermittent infection is partial obstruction of the gut after the development of adhesions perhaps caused by internal scarring when he was shot in the abdomen. That the troubles could be caused by old adhesions — this, incidentally, is also a popular diagnosis with medical examiners — is a distinct possibility.

Although various research projects have shown that adhesions are only rarely the cause of serious trouble, there is no doctor who has not seen instances where they have given rise to symptoms similar to the Pope's that have disappeared after their division.

The appendix is not always obstructed from within — the usual trigger which induces

chief spokesman's unusually frank remarks to reporters during the pontiff's trip to Hungary a week ago, during which he moved slowly and often appeared tired and in pain after enduring cold winds and driving rain.

Dr Navarro-Valls has referred frequently in the past six months to "intestinal infections" and "fevers" to explain the Pope's repeated setbacks, including his cancellation of Christmas Mass and medical tests for "abdominal pains" during his summer break at Castelgandolfo.

During the Hungarian trip, Dr Navarro-Valls, a former doctor, said the repeated abdominal infections were due to "mysterious bacteria" which had the Vatican baffled. He appeared to hint that reports that the constant trembling in the Pope's left hand was due to Parkinson's disease were true, and said his "personal view" was that the Pope's stomach problems stemmed from the attempt on his life in May 1981, when he was shot in the abdomen.

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Vatican faces
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Baghdad hurls torrent of abuse at Clinton amid continuing US build-up of military force

Iraq tension eases as Perry bolsters allies in the Gulf

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA and Iraq pulled back from the brink of renewed conflict yesterday, but William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, refused to rule out further airstrikes against Iraqi targets.

Mr Perry was on a whistle-stop tour of the Gulf, where America's military buildup continued. The reduction in tension followed a pledge by President Saddam Hussein to halt further attacks on allied warplanes enforcing the no-fly zones imposed over the north and south of his country. An official Baghdad newspaper emphasised that this move, brokered by Russian diplomats in the Iraqi capital, was only "temporary". In some of the strongest insults ever addressed to President Clinton, Saddam's mouthpiece *al-Jumhuriya* dismissed the American leader as "mentally retarded, immersed in vice and without conscience".

American diplomatic sources said that instructions had been given by the White House for a cooling-off in the rhetoric being used against the Iraqi dictator while Mr Perry continued a delicate diplomatic mission to bolster

what is left of the 1991 US-led coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The tone was set by Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, who was crudely ridiculed in a poem published by one Iraqi paper at the weekend.

She said that Saddam seemed unlikely now to take actions that might provoke a renewed attack on Iran and added that the US would not be provoked into "overreacting". Speaking on the NBC programme *Meet the Press*, Ms Albright hinted strongly that the huge US force now gathering in the Gulf, including eight Stealth fighters in Kuwait, would not be ordered into immediate action unless fresh provocations came from the Iraqis.

Mr Perry gave an evasive answer when questioned on the same subject during a day which involved talks in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. He is due today for meetings in Turkey, which like Saudi Arabia, has refused to allow US planes being held in readiness for airstrikes to be based on its territory. During his tour, the Emir of Bahrain announced that it would

sanction the basing of 23 American F-16 fighters on its soil. Mr Perry said the planes would enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

"It looks as though Saddam Hussein is not going to do anything else," Ms Albright said. She added that the US would remain "resolute" in its effort to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbours again. "Basically we have built our forces there. They have acted as a very strong deterrent. We will be resolute," she said.

Pressed on whether it would take another provocation for the US to renew attacks, Ms Albright said: "I think we are going to keep watching the whole issue very, very carefully."

Diplomatic reports in the Gulf, unconfirmed by US officials, said that America was now pressing for Iraq to withdraw all its anti-aircraft systems from the no-fly zones, including the recently extended sector in the south. The US stand on the issue was complicated when a senior Russian diplomat in Baghdad claimed that Iraq still had the right to fire on foreign warplanes entering its airspace.

Mr Perry was asked in Kuwait whether further airstrikes against Iraq were still possible. He replied: "Yes, it is a possibility," without giving more details.

Mr Perry failed in Kuwait to secure immediate approval for a previously-announced plan to deploy 5,000 extra US troops in the emirate to join the 1,200 already based there.

Yesterday they conducted live-fire exercises south of the border over which Iraqi troops stormed in August 1990, igniting the crisis that led to the Gulf War.

The live-fire exercise, the latest in a

series of 155mm shells as gunners from the US First Cavalry Division's Alpha Battery practised with their new track-propelled Paladin howitzers, each capable of hitting targets 18 miles away.

During the two-and-a-half-hour journey to Udaibi, all we could see for mile after endless mile was glistening white sand, a few sheep munching bushes, burnt-out metal hulks, and the odd Bedou holding the steering wheel of his Toyota pick-up truck in one hand and a mobile phone in the other, while rounding up his camels.

The air shook repeatedly with the

explosions of 155mm shells as gunners from the US First Cavalry Division's Alpha Battery practised with their new track-propelled Paladin howitzers, each capable of hitting targets 18 miles away.

wait in February 1991. "Everyone here understands what the mission is," said Corporal Matthew Barr, the personal bodyguard of Captain James Barron, the commander of Alpha Battery.

In the blast-furnace heat of the desert, and amid clouds of blinding white sand, the men of Alpha Battery shredded targets over the horizon, including the rusty remnants of Iraqi tanks, artillery pieces and troop carriers, abandoned here in huge numbers after the Allies expelled President Saddam Hussein's forces from Ku-



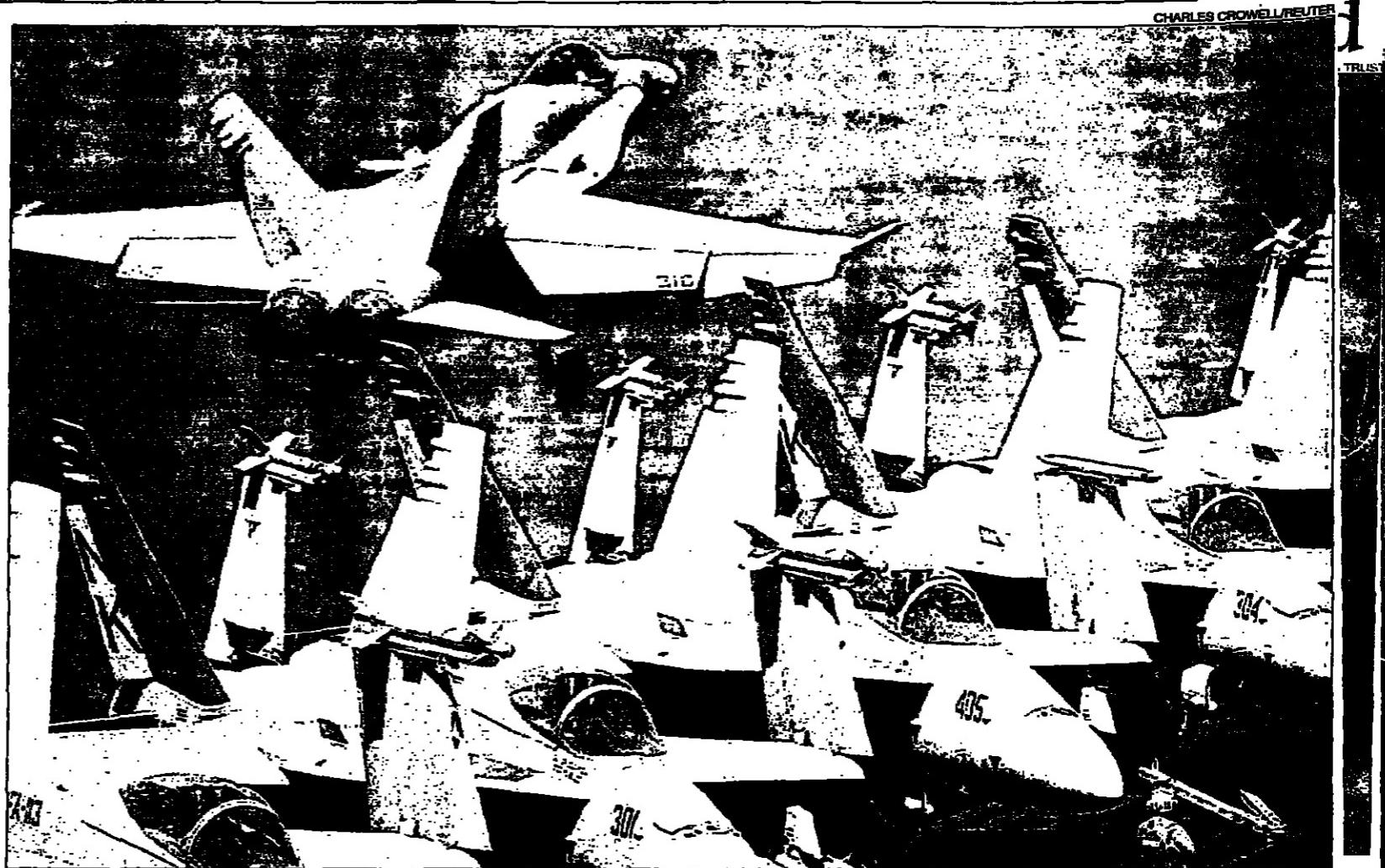
America is showing its determination to protect Kuwait with a display of firepower on the Iraqi border. Michael Dynes reports from the Ali al-Salem air base

through their paces for the media, we were told that the First Cavalry Division's new computer-assisted big guns had succeeded in "delivering a copperhead missile into the open hatch of a moving tank" from a distance of 16 miles.

"It's quicker, it rolls faster, shoots further — it's just an awesome machine," one gunner said.

The gunners from Alpha Battery were deployed to Kuwait from Fort Hood, Texas, on August 10, for 120 days of exercises under the defence pact agreed between the US and Kuwait after the Gulf War.

In addition to the 1,200 strong rotating battalion, there are also several hundred non-combat American military personnel who are stationed at Camp Doha, west of Kuwait City, along with the eight Stealth F/A-18s which arrived at al-Jaber air base, southwest of the capital, last Friday.



An F/A-18 Hornet warplane takes off from the USS *Carl Vinson* aircraft carrier to patrol the extended southern no-fly zone over Iraq

Big guns wheeled out in Kuwaiti desert

AMERICAN heavy artillery bombard invisible targets at the Udaibi firing range in the Kuwaiti desert yesterday, 25 miles south of the Iraqi border, in the latest demonstration of Washington's determination to defend the oil-rich emirate.

The air shook repeatedly with the explosions of 155mm shells as gunners from the US First Cavalry Division's Alpha Battery practised with their new track-propelled Paladin howitzers, each capable of hitting targets 18 miles away.

During the two-and-a-half-hour journey to Udaibi, all we could see for mile after endless mile was glistening white sand, a few sheep munching bushes, burnt-out metal hulks, and the odd Bedou holding the steering wheel of his Toyota pick-up truck in one hand and a mobile phone in the other, while rounding up his camels.

The live-fire exercise, the latest in a

five-year series codenamed Intrinsic Action, is aimed at boosting the battle readiness of US and Kuwaiti troops, enabling them to deploy rapidly anywhere in the region in the event of an armed conflict with Iraq.

In the blast-furnace heat of the desert, and amid clouds of blinding white sand, the men of Alpha Battery shredded targets over the horizon, including the rusty remnants of Iraqi tanks, artillery pieces and troop carriers, abandoned here in huge numbers after the Allies expelled President Saddam Hussein's forces from Ku-

wait in February 1991. "Everyone here understands what the mission is," said Corporal Matthew Barr, the personal bodyguard of Captain James Barron, the commander of Alpha Battery.

"We've got scorpions in our boots, snakes in our beds and another three months to go in this goddamn heat," he added. "There's no beer and no women. None of us has had a drink in six weeks. It's pretty grim. But we're here to prepare for military action. None of us wants it, but we're ready if it comes."

As the six howitzers were put



William Perry, US Defence Secretary, with Sheikh Hamoud al-Sabah, his Kuwaiti counterpart yesterday

Letters, page 21

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

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This week *The Times* is offering readers exclusive savings of up to 50% on short breaks at 365 Johansens recommended hotels, inns and country houses throughout Great Britain, Ireland and Europe. The choice includes a wide range of properties, all of which offer superior standards of accommodation and cuisine. Plus this year, for the first time, our offer also features 30 hotels in Europe.

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THE TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1996

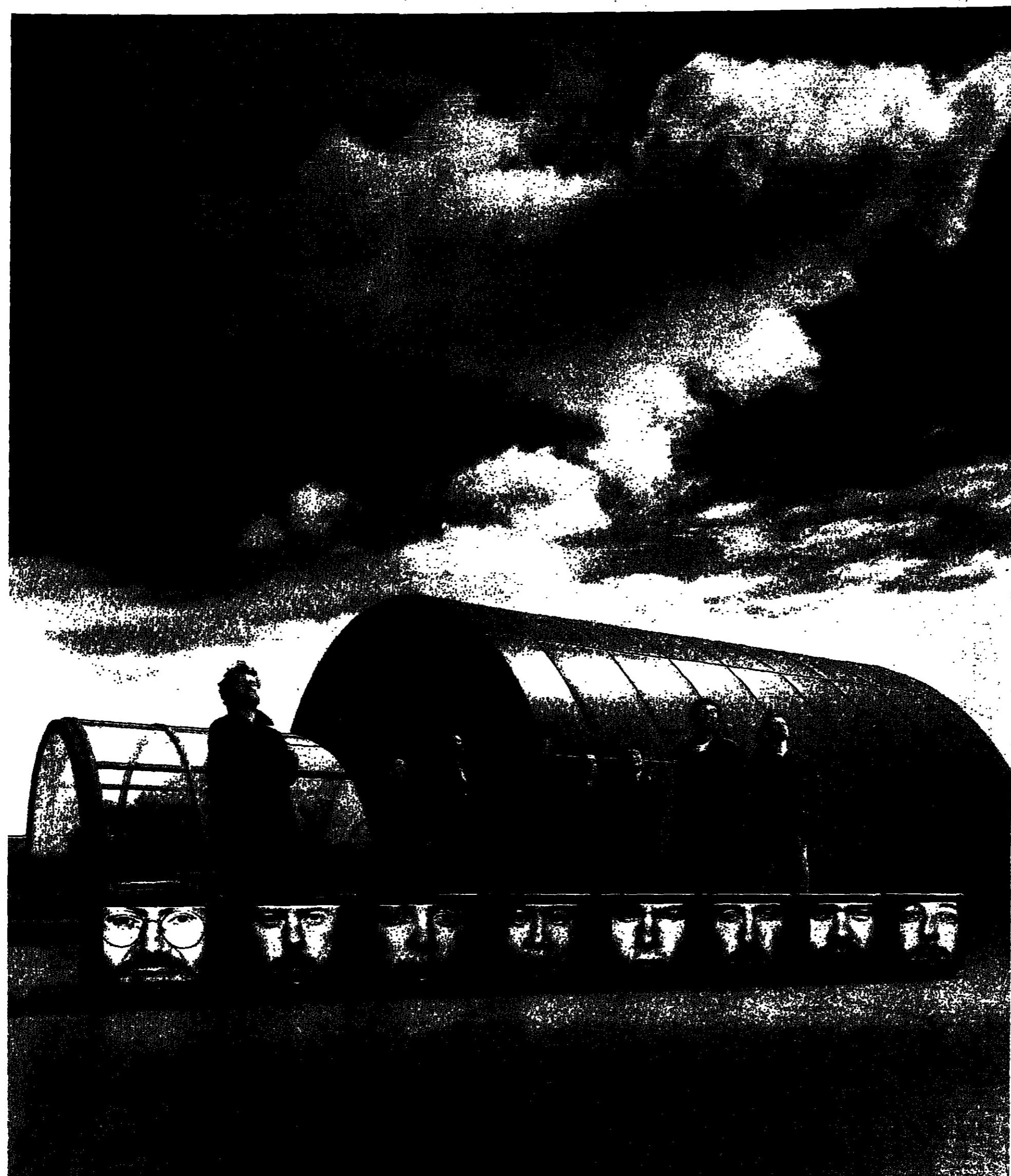
SHORT BREAKS GUIDE

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Now, how can we help you?



THE TIMES
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Brynn
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Foto: M. S. B. /
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Why some states are more equal than others in the West's institutions

Europe will this week reverberate with abstract argument about institutions. On Thursday, a plane load of the great and good will descend on the placid city of Zurich to commemorate Winston Churchill's speech there 50 years ago calling for a united Europe. Javier Solana, the Spanish Secretary-General of Nato, speaks in London the same day. Anyone discontented by the Bosnian elections will lament the failure of the institutions of what used to be called "the West" to do better. No one will refer to a little



mentioned fact of late 20th-century diplomacy: none of the outfits such as the European Union, Nato or the United Nations work unless

leaders emerge to set agendas and the members are ready to be led. The universal pretence that all states are equal inside the bodies born in the Cold War is a tacit fiction. When these institutions begin to drift or limp, they can only be revived by small inner groups of states which seize the levers of power without boasting that they are in the "G4".

Secret cabals can often create and execute strategies which would be paralysed by fully-fledged consultation and decision. When France and Germany do this in

EU, Britain is often the loser. But the British mind rather less in Nato, being on the inside track. In the past year, the Atlantic alliance has been rescued from death by irrelevance. America, Germany, Britain and France have gradually solidified into an informal directorate, often known in the four capitals as the "G4".

The governments did not exactly design this development; they try not to appear exclusive because countries which do not get invited tend to com-

plain. But the difficulties of spreading military risks in Bosnia more evenly between Europe and America, and the delicate statecraft required to keep Russia and Central Europe happy at the same time, squeezed the Nato system into a subtly different shape.

The policy's ambassador is Helmut Kohl, who has just made a crucial pair of visits to Moscow and Ukraine. Authorised by Washington, London and Paris, he told the ailing President Yeltsin that Nato would not name the Central European states to be taken as new members until the summit next spring; that

year. This is the closest thing that presently exists to a "common foreign and security policy" for Europe. The EU's version mostly tends to reveal to the world how divided its members are on questions such as Iraq.

The policy's ambassador is Helmut Kohl, who has just made a crucial pair of visits to Moscow and Ukraine. Authorised by Washington, London and Paris, he told the ailing President Yeltsin that Nato would not name the Central European states to be taken as new members until the summit next spring; that

to avoid upsetting Moscow, very little would be said about it until then; that Nato had no intention of taking any of the three tiny Baltic republics as members, and Nato and Russia would agree a "charter" outlining every detail of their co-operation.

Helmut Kohl's journey revealed that Nato's big powers have finally buckled down to the job of working out how to fulfil the alliance's membership promises to countries such as Poland and Hungary without starting trouble in Mos-

cow. The new strategy might be summed up as "slow down, shut up and it's bad luck for the Balts". But President Clinton's Ambassador to Nato can still predict, as he did in London last week, that enlargement of the alliance will happen on its 50th birthday, in April 1999. Given that states such as Poland are only going to be allowed into the EU very slowly, membership of Nato is still prized. Central Europeans have an exaggerated faith in Western institutions.

GEORGE BROCK

Italians turn backs on the birth of Padania

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN VENICE

UMBERTO BOSSI, the Northern League leader, yesterday declared the "birth of the Padanian nation" in Venice after a three-day march along the River Po "from the mountains to the sea".

The spectacle was staged in sunshine near St Mark's Square, with Signor Bossi surrounded by League flags and banners and cheering green-shirted supporters. But the turnout, amid a heavy police presence, was well below Signor Bossi's expectations, and his rallies in towns along the Po were sparsely attended.

Estimates put the Venice crowd at several thousand rather than the million Signor Bossi had boasted would support his new "government". "We had 100 times this number of people for the Pink Floyd concert seven years ago," one resident said.

Counter-rallies in support of a united Italy drew far bigger attendances. In Milan, spectators were addressed by Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the far-right Alleanza Nazionale. Signor Fini, who hopes to attract disillusioned League voters in future, said to roars of approval that secession was "an insult to history and an insult to reason". He said Signor Bossi's trek across Italy had become a "farce" and urged court action over his call for the formation of a separatist militia.

Police estimated that more



Bossi: journey dogged by moments of comedy

than 150,000 people from all over Italy joined the demonstration in Milan, the country's financial capital and headquarters of the League. Organisers put the turnout at 250,000.

Smaller pro-unity rallies also took place on the Po, including one at San Benedetto Po, where Green Party supporters flew a string of balloons across the river, and at Piacenza, where one

banner read: "Free the North, but from the League". In the southern port of Bari, President Scalfaro hinted that Signor Bossi might be prosecuted for "incitement to illegal acts". A democracy which did not apply the law would not be worthy of the name, the President said.

President Scalfaro's comments followed a call by Signor Bossi on the last leg of his Po Valley trip near Mantua, for his followers to join a "Padanian National Guard", with the League's green-shirted stewards as its nucleus.

In Turin, where ugly clashes broke out late on Friday night between left-wing demonstrators and League supporters, magistrates initiated moves to charge Signor Bossi with "violating the constitution".

Newspapers said the League, which gained 10 per cent of the vote in April's general election, may have reached its high watermark by embracing the separatist cause. According to opinion polls, only 7 per cent of Italians support secession by the North.

President Scalfaro said a nation of more than 50 million people would not be "troubled" by thousands of demonstrators "or even a million" who did not represent an ethnic minority.

Signor Bossi's quasi-mystical journey down the Po, and at Piacenza, where one

which began with him drawing water from the river's source in a flask of Venetian glass, was marked by rallies attended by thousands — but sometimes only hundreds — of people. In Turin, Signor Bossi claimed that 60,000 attended his opening rally. Police put the figure at 3,000.

Signor Bossi responded by accusing the media of "telling lies" about his true level of support. But his journey was dogged by moments of comic opera.

Signor Bossi, whose local protest movement grew into a national force at the end of the 1980s, arrived in Venice in a flotilla led by a catamaran. But he had to abandon a planned boat journey along the Po because the river was too low. In Turin, fireworks failed to spell out "Padania" in the night sky. Signor Bossi blamed "sabotage".

In Verona, Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister and leader of Forza Italia, told a pro-unity rally that the Bossi march had been "a flop". Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, said the League's declaration of independence was "a ridiculous and artificial event".

Earlier, a small fire bomb exploded at the League's headquarters in Venice, but caused little damage. Signor Bossi described the bomb as "the opening shot" in the central state's battle with the new "nation of Padania".



Danny Mendez, Miss Italy, addresses a weekend anti-Bossi rally

Chinese to hear rights debate

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

IT SEEMS, to say the least, like satire: MPs from around the world engaging in "open debate" in a society where all opposition figures have given up the struggle, or are in jail, labour camps, or exile.

But members of 122 parliaments, including six from Britain, will listen in Peking's Great Hall of the People today as President Jiang Zemin, the head of China's Communist Party, welcomes up to 600 members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Over the next five days, they will discuss human rights and other issues in a state which rejects foreign criticism of its record as interference in its internal affairs.

"We will have a discussion on the general promotion and respect of human rights which is an item of the conference and which will be discussed in public," said Pierre Cornillon, secretary-general of the union.

Robin Newmann, the union's information officer, said MPs would be free to say whatever they wished. However, the Chinese believe that the human rights to be discussed are those of about 80 parliamentarians from other countries where rights have been violated.

During the United Nations women's conference last year, security men tried to halt and monitor discussion of human rights debate among non-government delegations.

Split in Muslim vote could help Serb win

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE next President of Bosnia-Herzegovina could be Momico Krajisnik, a Serb close to Radovan Karadzic, who has been indicted for war crimes.

The prospect of Mr Krajisnik becoming first chairman of the Presidency is believed to be behind an announcement by the Muslim-led Bosnian Government yesterday that it would not recognise the results of Saturday's election in the Serb-held half of Bosnia because of voting irregularities. The results are not expected to be announced until tonight.

Saturday's election was a contest between leading Serb, Muslim and Croat candidates who will share power in the new tripartite presidency. Voting has been largely along ethnic lines, with each community electing a member from its own ranks to represent it in the country's highest ruling body. Mr Krajisnik is the only serious contender among Serbs in the Serb half of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while Alija Izetbegovic, the Muslim leader and Bosnia's current President, faces competition from Haris Silajdzic, his former

to unify the country after four years of war that divided it into ethnic fiefdoms. The vote nonetheless proceeded much more smoothly than almost anyone had predicted with almost no incidents of violence and only few reports of voting irregularities.

The Serbs countered the Bosnian complaint yesterday. Citing irregularities with the refugee ballots which were cast abroad but counted in local municipalities, Serb officials ordered polling stations in Serb territory to stop counting ballots for several hours.

The potential crisis was attributed to a misunderstanding after a delegation from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which organised the election, met Serb officials in Pale.

While international officials discounted both complaints as political posturing, they warned that the early round of accusations boded ill for the establishment of the central government that is supposed to govern both the Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat Federation.

The voters were taken to the tent in small groups, passing police to fill out their ballot forms beneath the Serb flag. US attack helicopters clattered overhead while humvees mounted with heavy machine-guns and grenade launchers clustered around the road beyond. There must have been at least five guns to every voter.

"I know I'm not supposed to comment," said one of the OSCE election observers, "but my God, there are 28 policemen here, soldiers ev-

erywhere, helicopters buzzing us. Is this oppressive or what?"

As more coaches arrived, the atmosphere became increasingly strained when some Muslims asked to proceed a mile and a half to a voting station in Grbavica, the village from which they were purged in 1992.

Roberto Barbarulo, head of the OSCE in the Zvornik area, handled the situation with an oblique shrug, explaining to the Muslims that the day was for voting, not visiting, and that though technically they were free to move where they wanted, the limitations on their movement were "recommended". They accepted the news stoically enough. "Dayton is one reality, this is another," one said.



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Brynner cowboy gear up for sale

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

THE black hat and two six-shooters used by Yul Brynner in the film *The Magnificent Seven* are to go under the hammer in Paris today.

The richly embroidered silk costumes the late actor wore in his best known role, as the King of Siam in the musical *The King and I*, are also among the 250 lots to go on sale at Drouot, the Paris auction house.

The collection of memorabilia, paintings and furniture comes from Criquebeuf, Brynner's beloved Normandy mansion, 18 miles from Deauville. The upkeep of the mansion drove him to play the King of Siam six days a week, 50 weeks a year, for 15 years.

The sale includes his Mexican cowboy boots from *The Magnificent Seven* and the jewelled-encrusted red velvet slippers he wore in *The King and I*.

Brynner was a passionate art collector and among the works to be auctioned are sketches by his friend Jean Cocteau, one of which bears the legend: "My Yul, I am still very ill... a line from you would give me courage."

Brynner died in 1985, from lung cancer, aged 65. He had smoked up to four packs a day. A cigarette case, a gift from Marlene Dietrich, will also be sold.

Gunning for democracy

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN ORAVAC, NEAR ZVORNIK, BOSNIA

SHELTERED by Nato fire-power, Bosnia's elections on Saturday proceeded almost without incident. "We were prepared for the worst but we had a day that could be described as dull," said Carl Bildt, the international peace co-ordinator.

Yet aside from the crowding of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which ran the election, the day seemed as much to lay the foundations for a second Bosnian war as cement the Dayton peace initiative.

Muslim voters crossing the dividing line between government and Serb-held areas to vote in Oravac, near Zvornik in eastern Bosnia, resembled prisoners more than an electorate free to move according

to the Dayton stipulations. The first coach at the polling station, a tent in a quarry designated for them by the Serbs, was ringed by armed Serb police who far outnumbered the 12 Muslim passengers.

The voters were taken to the tent in small groups, passing police to fill out their ballot forms beneath the Serb flag. US attack helicopters clattered overhead while humvees mounted with heavy machine-guns and grenade launchers clustered around the road beyond. There must have been at least five guns to every voter.

"I know I'm not supposed to comment," said one of the OSCE election observers, "but my God, there are 28 policemen here, soldiers ev-

'There are, of course, those who think that an ex-Director-General of MI5 is not a respectable person'

Stella Rimington became the first woman head of MI5 in 1992. Now, six months after retiring, she writes for the first time about the unique pressures of the job

Of course, I never thought that life in retirement was going to be quite the same for me as for my predecessors. Nothing about my time as Director-General of MI5 had been predictable since it was decided that I was to be the first head of the service whose name should be publicly announced.

Though my predecessors' names became known gradually over time, for them there was nothing like that moment of shock when I suddenly emerged from the shadows, and the world, enthusiastically encouraged by the media, realised with fascinated amazement that the occupant of that previously most mysterious of jobs, head of MI5, was a woman. I became overnight a well-known public figure, "a celeb" as my colleagues scathingly put it, even though for quite some time no one knew what I looked like.

To large sections of the media, peddling as usual their stereotyped views on the role of women, my appointment was a challenge. "Housewife Superspy," the tabloids trumpeted when my name was announced. "Mother of Two Gets Tough with Terrorists". Let's put the little lady back in front of the kitchen sink where she belongs. Then there was the love interest, essential if there's a woman involved. My children and I, listening to *Today* on Radio 4 as we had breakfast one morning, heard *What the Papers Say* telling the nation that one tabloid had a headline "MI5 Boss in Secret Love Split". They rushed out to buy the paper to see what I had been up to but came back deflated. "Boring," was their verdict on the paper's revelation of the fact that my husband and I had been amicably separated for some time.

Not surprisingly, much confusion followed all this publicity in many people's minds. Was I an entertainment figure, a media figure, a female icon or what? How exactly did I fit in? It was quite clear — I wasn't any of those things. I was a public servant with a very serious job to do. A job which included a policy of explaining as much as could be explained about the role and workings of the Security Service, consistent with its remaining an effective security intelligence organisation. And consistent too with the position of a public servant accountable to ministers and Parliament.

So invitations to appear as a judge on *MastersChef*, to be interviewed by *American Vogue* and to be a guest on TV shows were turned down. As were, after a lot of thought, suggestions that I should be interviewed by serious commentators on TV, radio and in the press. But invitations to give the Richard Dimbleby Lecture and other public lectures were accepted and used as an opportunity to put on the record some basic facts about this fictionalised part of the defences of the country. A booklet was produced about the service and recruiting literature giving an idea of what a new entrant to the service might expect.

In four years or so it was never going to be possible to explain enough to dissipate all the myths generated by an industry of spy-story writers. And the explaining process will go on, pursued by my successor and his successor in their own unique way. Some myths will always remain and a degree of mystery will always be generated if the security and intelligence services are to remain effective. And in my retirement I am finding that the myths attach to me in a way that is sometimes rather disconcerting.

Some people seem to find me rather sinister. In particular they appear to think that I am in possession of detailed information about everyone's private lives. I find this disturbing and not a little disappointing when I think how much effort I put in to explaining the limits on the activities of the Security Service. Was I wasting my breath?

The other evening, at a

dinner given by a leading British company, I found myself sitting at the same table as the Ambassador of a former Warsaw Pact country. I could see that he was anxious to unburden himself of something. Halfway through the first course, he suddenly announced to the rest of the table: "She knows the names of all my mistresses." A *frisson* passed around the table. My fellow guests, distinguished businessmen, vice-chancellors, politicians and Members of the House of Lords to a man, shifted uneasily in their seats. They more than half believed him. I could see them wondering did I know the names of *their* mistresses too? And what else did I know about them? From that point on they were very polite, but distant.

Others are nervous of me for different reasons. They think I'll get them blown up. When I was appointed Director-General, some newspapers, very thoughtlessly and to my mind unforgivably, publicised my address. One prominently published a photograph of my house. Maybe they have learnt more sense since then.

I was interested to hear the Editor of one tabloid newspaper speaking on the radio a few weeks ago about his decision to name the Conservative members of the Home Affairs Select Committee who did not support a ban on handguns. His paper had published addresses at which the MP could be contacted so that the public could "Tell the Six Guilty MPs What You Think". He was indignant when it was suggested to him that it was irresponsible to publish the home addresses of the MPs. Of course, his paper would not be so stupid, he said, it was their constituency office addresses they had published. Such a well-developed sensitivity is new, as I know to my cost.

Some members of the Islington middle class with whom I had quietly and happily shared a street for ten years suddenly turned quite nasty when they realised that they were living close to the Director-General of MI5.

They made it clear to me that they no longer wanted me as a neighbour. The message came over loud and clear: people like me should not live in ordinary places. One wrote to the local paper complaining that his helicopters constantly hovering overhead were disturbing his family — the helicopters were, in fact, connected with the policing of Arsenal football matches and had nothing at all to do with me. Another asked me not to leave for work just as he was taking his daughter to school, in case those trying to shoot me missed and hit them instead. So in my retirement I shall hope to find some braver neighbours than I found in Islington.

My family are hoping that we will not have to resort to living under an assumed name. It's bad enough, they say, having to have a PO box number as our address and getting all our mail late, but for goodness sake don't make us pretend to be someone else. They have not been trained in the cover life and they seem to me, perhaps as a reaction to my former profession, to be abnormally open and above-board.

When I was Director-General, in common with some other well-known people, I travelled using an alias to avoid my movements being easily traceable. One member of my family travelling with me had to have documents in the same false name that I was using. They found it so alien that they signed their



Out of the shadows: Rimington at her desk at MI5

documents in their real name — not once but when the first ones had been replaced, a second time.

In the end I had to stand over them while they signed, saying: "Your name is ****. And you'll never get a job in the Security Service."

Thankfully for me, all those I've mentioned are the exceptions. There are many more for whom a former head of MI5, particularly a female one, is a desirable after-dinner speaker, giver-away of prizes, opener of fêtes and lecturer on all sorts of occasions. Enough I think to keep me busy for some time to come.

There are even some who think that such a person might have a useful contribution to make in other areas of life. And even more, I am thankful to say, who see me as I see myself — another retired senior public servant who did an essential job for the State and its citizens.



TOMORROW
Life after MI5
Stella Rimington on the
pleasures of a 'normal' life



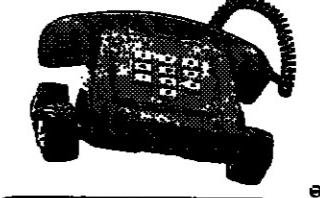
Housewife superspy, female icon — or a dedicated public servant with a serious mission? Stella Rimington found that the tabloids struggled to come to terms with her role

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Part One of a new series: Jason Cowley and Alex Garland warn of the difficulties and



Bridging the gap year

The gap year has never been more popular. We examine the dilemmas it presents for both parents and children, and look at new research which shows the culture shock it can create

Who goes where

Most students choosing to spend their gap year overseas are unprepared for the culture shock awaiting them. Last year GAP Activity Projects, which places volunteers around the world, in association with Bristol University, ran a study evaluating the effect on 500 students. Each was asked to complete a questionnaire three weeks after arriving at their placement.

"Early impressions are important," Dr David Mumford, senior lecturer in psychiatry at Bristol University, says. "This is when the food, language and culture of a country seem most unfamiliar."

Not surprisingly cultural distance from Britain — in terms of climate, dress, language, food, religion and customs — was the strongest predictor. When instances of culture shock were plotted on a graph against distance, the result showed that Asian countries caused the most problems. Other difficulties were blamed

on unhappiness at work, unpleasant physical surroundings, unpalatable food, ill-health, difficulty getting on with a GAP partner and restrictions on personal freedom.

"Of these, though, unrest in the workplace was by far the most significant," Dr Mumford says. "Whether the student had contact with a GAP agent or was travelling with a partner was less important than whether he was happy in his work, got on with his boss or felt he was doing something valuable."

John Cornell, director of GAP, says that "overwhelming feelings of culture shock are unpleasant and may result in volunteers not completing their placement... But cultural travel is always to some degree stressful: we do it because it is also rewarding. For most volunteers these emotional ups and downs are part of what is so worthwhile about the experience. Only a very few run into serious difficulties and elect to come home."

PLAN YOUR YEAR

Given the opportunity, most students would take a year off.

They are prevented from doing so only by lack of funds, or youthful indecision, or both, according to Dawn Howell, of STA Travel. "Last year we asked 10,000 students what they would do if they were given an extra £2,000: more than 50 per cent said they would take time out to spend it on a round-the-world ticket," she says.

The number of students who have a gap year is surprisingly small. Exact figures are hard to come by but Richard Dennis, of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), reports that in 1995, 17,134 out of 290,998 with firm offers deferred entry to university for 12 months: the figure in 1994 was 14,520. The number of students taking time out between university

and full-time employment is considerably higher.

The most popular destination for those going abroad in their gap year is Australia. "Students are eager to visit America, Australasia and Asia as part of a round-the-world ticket," Ms Howell says.

The best country for working in is Australia, with most taking advantage of the availability of one-year working visas. Waitressing, bar work, fruit-picking and temping are the preferred jobs."

Other popular pursuits include teaching English as a foreign language, doing voluntary work overseas, living on one of the 270 kibbutzim in Israel and, for women, working as au pair.

home working in a routine job. The student should undertake testing tasks, travel, do interesting things.

"Employers have a good attitude towards those who have had a gap year, especially if it has been well used. They feel that the extra experience gives young people a chance to work out their ideas and beliefs, so that they return to their studies with renewed commitment and determination. It also looks good on the CV."

The key is to use your year of positively; it's no good just sitting around. If you can afford it, you should go abroad. The student may never have had that much time on his hands again.

Keith Dugdale, director of the careers advisory service at the University of Manchester and UMIST, urges students embarking on a gap year to choose how they spend their time with care. "We feel it is a really good thing to do provided the time is not spent at

agger for the Leeds office of Grant Thornton, an international firm of business advisers, says employers are impressed if students have shown initiative or developed new skills, such as learning a language.

"What is important is what students have made of their opportunities. If it has built their personality, taught self-sufficiency, the ability to budget, given maturity, this is an asset. If these qualities do not emerge, then the fact that they have missed this opportunity to develop would probably count against them."

Margaret Murray, head of the CBI's education policy group, agrees: "Employers are not impressed by the sort of travel where you wander round the world with a rucksack dreaming. If a young person can answer the question: 'What has been achieved as a result of the year?', then we would be interested in interviewing them."

Adrienne Irving, personnel man-

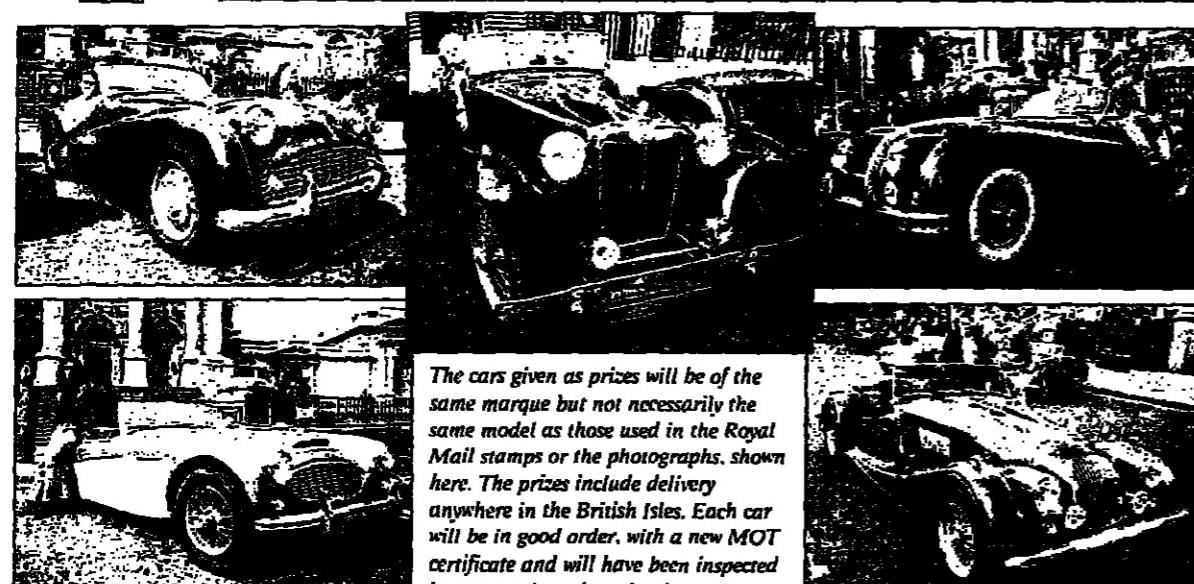
JASON COWLEY

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THE TIMES

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Royal Mail marks British motoring's celebration of two centenaries this year with a set of five special stamps to be launched on Tuesday, October 1, ranging in denominations from 20p to 63p. First there was the Locomotives on Highways Act of 1896 which allowed the Local Government Board to raise the speed limit for cars from 4 mph to 12 mph. The second event in 1896 was the registration of Daimler to build cars in Coventry.

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CHANGING TIMES

Through the moral minefield

SUN AND SIN

A friend, Jim, left school and bought a one-way ticket to Bangkok. His intention was to see the world before university sucked the will out of him. He planned to spend some time in Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and finally, Tokyo.

We will skip five months.

Not that the five months aren't worth hearing, but in a way the story is told just as well by passing them over, and instead describing where Jim ended up.

Deeply in love, first with Appen — a beautiful prostitute whose house he now shared. Secondly, in a Bangkok squatter camp, living with the huge community of girls and boys who worked the Patpong go-go bars. Thirdly, intoxicated on the extraordinary world he had stumbled into, not to mention the various drugs he was taking. Having never smoked a joint, Jim was now a pharmaceutical enthusiast.

Jim's story ended when a team of private detectives, hired by his parents, managed to track him down. One night, lying in bed with Appen, the door of the shack was kicked open. Three men bundled in. Jim was bundled out and the next thing he knew he was on a plane to London.

For the sake of any nervous parent whose kids are about to go travelling, it's worth bearing in mind that what happened to Jim was pretty unusual. But having said that, it is worth bearing in mind that there are some aspects to Jim's experience that are not unusual. In fact, they are a recurring feature of many accounts of gap-year travel.

Jim had never smoked a joint before flying to Thailand and, prior to meeting Appen, Jim would not have slept with a prostitute.

Nothing much to do with AIDS; he disapproved of prostitution on moral grounds, particularly in a country where girls are made to enter brothels by force, coercion and poverty. But within a week of arrival in Thailand, everything had turned around. That is not to say that, if Jim had stayed in England, he would have always continued to avoid drugs and prostitutes. One can be reasonably

sure that the turnaround would have taken a lot longer than seven days.

I empathise with Jim a great deal. Speaking for myself, as a naive 18-year-old, I flew to an exotic land where it was clear that many of the rules of home no longer applied. From this, in some way, a subconscious conclusion was reached that all of the rules of home no longer applied.

Years of classrooms and exams, with further years of work or university on the horizon, encourage the instinct to go a little wild. Suddenly a country like Thailand can seem an adult's Disneyland.

Needless to say, Disney-

land for adults does not exist (unless you count Disneyland itself). All countries have rules. It is up to the tourist to find out what they are.

that can damage farming or fishing communities. It's easy to make mistakes, while weaving through this moral minefield, and even easier when just out of school.

ALEX GARLAND

The Beach, by Alex Garland, is published on October 16 by Viking (£10.99)

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■ VISUAL ART

Artist on show: Turner Prizewinner Rachel Whiteread gets her first retrospective, courtesy of the Tate Liverpool
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ DANCE

Dracula comes alive in Bradford, as Northern Ballet Theatre unveils Christopher Gable's latest production
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ MUSIC

Rostropovich plays the world premiere of a new cello concerto with the LSO at the Barbican
CONCERT: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

Five hundred years of Christian history are reassessed in a new book about the Reformation
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

BBC PROMS

A Last Night well-judged

NO PANICS this year. Harrison Birtwistle's piece fuelled controversy after last year's Last Night of the Proms. But the new work on Saturday was a shrewd choice by Nicholas Kenyon, for *Concerto in Pieces* by the Danish composer Poul Ruders is both an admirable composition and palatable to a general audience.

The Concerto, commissioned last year for the BBC's Music Live 95 weekend in Birmingham, is a latter-day Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, based on the "Ho-ho-ho" Witches' Chorus from *Dido and Aeneas*, and demonstrating what the BBC Symphony Orchestra's tubular bells and gongs sound like when immersed in pools of water.

In Shostakovich's Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and Strings, the soloists were Joanna MacGregor and John Wallace, the former dazzling as much with her fingerwork as with the orange and black creation in which she appeared. There was also Malcolm

BARRY MILLINGTON

Pride and joy

SIR Georg Solti's Beethoven is not for delicate sensibilities. Beefy, busy and brassy, it is a great showman's vision rather than a philosopher's. But a great show is exactly what the Choral Symphony on the Proms' penultimate night should be, and Solti's ebullient reading fitted the bill perfectly.

That was certainly the people's verdict. After the blistering final bars their cheers for the 83-year-old conductor lasted practically as long as the slow movement — and Solti is not a man to rush his Adagio in the currently modish manner.

He was conducting his old pride and joy, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Chicago strings don't have quite the sweet strength displayed by the Berlin Philharmonic when it came to the Albert Hall a fortnight ago, but they played the Adagio with a beautiful touch. The wood-

wind chording was without bluster; the brass and timpani supplied massive clout when required — and Solti's Beethoven is nothing if not cloutful.

Occasionally the strings raced slightly ahead of the wind, but that might have been because they were closer to Solti: those flashing eyes have not lost their mesmerising power. They had their effect, too, on the singers. After a brilliant bass recitative by René Pape, and spirited contributions from Deborah Voigt, Anne Sofie von Otter and Johan Botha, the 85 professionals of the BBC Singers and London Voices punched out a thrilling *Ode to Joy*.

Earlier the BBC Singers, conducted by Jane Glover, had revelled in the lush harmonies of Bruckner's motets. Altogether a night of sonorous grandeur.

RICHARD MORRISON

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Richard Cork continues his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent *Mysteries of Ancient China*

JADE SUIT

EXCAVATED in 1968 from the tomb of Prince Liu Sheng at Mancheng, Hebei province, this is the most spectacular object on view at the exhibition. The prince was encased in a suit made of 2,498 small jade plaques, each pierced in the four corners and then sewn together with gold wire. Liu Sheng, who ruled his kingdom between 154 and 113 BC, preferred eating, drinking, sex and music to the boring business of ruling. He was buried in lavish style, next to a subterranean chamber big enough for banquets.

• *Mysteries of Ancient China*, sponsored by The Times, continues at the British Museum to Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 0171-820 0000

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Matthew Parris



If consciousness is entirely subjective, some popular questions about it are meaningless

Last month, Nigel Hawkes, *The Times's* science editor, organised a series of features on the mystery of consciousness. A recurring question was whether computers might in time achieve this. It was significant that none of the contributing writers — doubters or believers in the possible consciousness of machines — could cite any behaviour normally associated with consciousness which must always be beyond machines. All agree they could seem to be conscious.

I have been giving thought to this. I think the reasons we might deny that an apparently conscious machine really is so are also reasons to deny that other people are conscious.

If I could make a machine able both to speak and to write and "teach" it to use the word "I", would you say the machine possessed a sense of personal identity? Perhaps not. And if I taught it how and when to use the words "feel" and "think" and taught it to reply "yes" to the question "Are you conscious?", would you say that it was conscious?

If it learnt to preface probable statements with the words "I think", would you accept that it was thinking? And if during the time-lapses in which the machine is processing, it were to think, "Let me think," might you then allow that this was what it was doing?

Perhaps not; so imagine I were to teach it a more sophisticated skill. Asked "What do you mean when you say feel or think or by 'conscious of your own identity'?", my machine could be programmed to conduct an extensive wordsearch and reply by offering synonyms for these terms. So, after saying "Give me a while to think" and a pause, it might eventually reply "Well, the best I can do is offer some of the other expressions people use to describe consciousness — such as 'sentience', 'perceptive' and 'know'. You ask what I mean, but one cannot do more, you know, than say the same thing in different words. There's no way I can invite you to share my own consciousness."

"Like you I do feel, I do think, I am conscious. You will just have to take my word for that. I talk and behave like you, don't I? What more can you ever know?" Will you now, reader, accept that this machine is conscious?

Well, why not? My parents have already made such a machine. They begat me. By instruction and (more importantly) by example, they taught their machine to respond as described above. Because the way that their machine is made — we call it reproduction — introduces differences from the originals, and because the pro-

A human being can no more be proved to be thinking than a computer

The whole of the fascinating Times discussion about consciousness must therefore be relegated to the status of a subsidiary question. There can be

no point in asking whether a machine might be conscious until we are satisfied that if it were this could be demonstrated. But as I have shown, it could not be. It could only be demonstrated that a machine is behaving as though conscious.

Far from devising a way to establish whether a computer could attain human consciousness, we cannot even establish that other human beings have. We never will. Since the question "Can one know that anything beyond oneself is conscious?" has failed, the subsidiary question, "Can a machine achieve consciousness?", fails before it is posed.

That bit is easy. It adds nothing to Berkeley and Descartes. Where I come unstuck is with one little phrase that I used earlier. It is a tautology. I observed, to say I cannot experience an experience which is not mine.

But tautologies tell us nothing except the definition of words; yet when I say I do not know whether you experience, I believe myself to be saying something significant. My own argument, however, points to the opposite: that all statements about the experience of others are meaningless.

I cannot resolve this. I am getting out of my depth and must turn back to shore. My ducks need feeding.

Regal style

STEP ASIDE, Diana, Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York. In the fashion war that is the modern Royal Family, New York has picked its winner: the Queen.

Kenar, a Manhattan fashion house, has launched a poster and newspaper advertising campaign for its autumn range which features the supermodel Linda Evangelista arm-wrestling with a lookalike of Her Majesty in what seems to be a London pub.

According to Kenar, the Queen was chosen because "she is extremely cool right now with the

young". "She is an icon," says Charles De Caro, the "creative brain" behind the advertisement.

The spare sensibility of her dress sense is very much in fashion at the moment."

Indeed, the advertisement's "Queen" (who is in fact a professional lookalike called Mary Reynolds) is shown wearing a string of pearls, a tiara and just the sort of modest jacket and wrap-over skirt often sniggered at by the more knowing fashion types when worn by the real Queen.

The Queen has always been

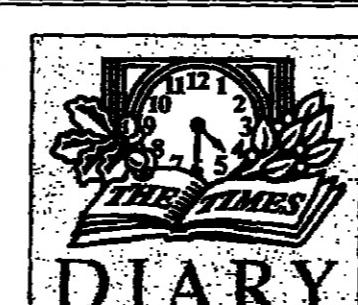
cool," says Mr De Caro, clearly intent on restoring Her Majesty to her rightful place in fashion's pantheon. "Let's face it, there is only one Queen."

Shake up

GRITTY realism is the aim behind plans to renovate one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions: the house where William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. Drawing on the past 30 years of research into 16th-century middle-class urban life, the team is to redecorate the house to show more precisely the conditions in which Shakespeare grew up.

The workshop where John Shakespeare, the poet's father, made gloves is to be recreated for the first time, and materials and fabrics in tune with the times will be added. "There will be some concessions to modernity," says the birthplace's director, Roger Pringle. "But we will not abandon heating and we will certainly not be putting rushes down on the floor."

• Cloak and dagger stuff from the Conservatives' campaign strategists. Two committees oversee campaign planning: Media Strategy 1 (MS1) which includes Central Office staff, and MS3 which includes advertising and PR merce-



naries from outside. There is no MS2. The reason? To keep the opposition guessing.

No sparkle

THOUGH times are good for Norman Lamont, he is finding it difficult to impart his bonhomie to the residents of Harrogate, his prospective constituency.

In an upmarket drinking hole in town the other day, he strode up to a friend celebrating his birthday and said: "Come on, have a glass of champagne, on me."

"I'll just have a pint of Fosters," said the friend.

"Go on, make it champagne," urged Lamont.

The conversation continued in this vein until eventually Lamont conceded, bought his friend his modest pint and addressed the bar:

"The trouble with some people," he said, "is that they don't know how to be happy."

Tell no tales

LORD RUNCIE, buffeted by the controversy about Humphrey Carpenter's biography, might care to reflect on Cardinal Manning. A Victorian of seemingly adamantine virtue, Manning also tangled with a troublesome biographer.

Edmund Sheridan Purcell approached Manning, offering to write his memoirs. Manning

agreed and showed Purcell portions of his private diary. Manning then did what Purcell says he wished he had done: he died.

Purcell moved swiftly, making off with a carriage-load of Manning's private documents from under the noses of the Cardinal's staff. Purcell's subsequent hatchet-job was described by Cardinal Vaughan as "almost a crime". Purcell should count himself lucky.

• Canada's debut as a venue for international cricket has been delayed. India and Pakistan, who can no longer play one another at home because of crowd trouble, were set to play in Toronto. But despite the precaution of taking their match to the other side of the world, one factor remained unglamorous: rain washed out the whole of the first day's play.

No go logo

THERE WAS but one blot on the plans of Umberto Bossi yesterday as he proclaimed the creation of Padania in northern Italy: the symbol of his new country looks like a cannabis leaf.

This is not the sort of thing to concern Bossi, a chest-thumping sort addicted to cigarettes and the sound of his own voice. Others, however, are laughing, including

at least committed to a referendum if a Conservative Government in the next Parliament should want to join the single currency. The Labour Party is not. Yet both parties still have a gaping hole in their policies. Neither John Major nor Tony Blair will say whether he will join the single currency or not.

This is a contempt of the electorate. Do you want to abandon British democracy? Do you want another million unemployed? Tick the box for "yes", "no", or "maybe". The leaders of both the main parties would now tick the boxes for "maybe", while Paddy Ashdown would tick the boxes for "yes".

John Major himself does not want to join the single currency; as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he took us into the exchange-rate mechanism, and perhaps feels once bitten, twice shy. Yet he will not commit himself not to go into a single currency in the next Parliament, because he is afraid of losing Kenneth Clarke. If that is still his position when the general election comes, John Major will thoroughly deserve to lose it.

What about Tony Blair? He is an able man. He has done a decisive job of leadership in reforming the constitution and policies of the Labour Party, much for the better. Yet he leans further towards the single currency. He has not yet even promised a referendum, but is still trying to fudge both the currency and referendum issues. That is not tolerable. If he wants to take Britain into a single currency, he should say so. All the arguments are already known; there are no secret facts to be discovered after the election. Does he want to liquidate British democracy? Does he want another million unemployed? Will he be Helmut Kohl's pink poodle? At the general election the politicians will be asking us, as electors, to trust them. We cannot trust them if they will not trust us.

unpopular and would risk creating a new form of dependency, by making the parties more centralised and less inclined to seek individual members. A more acceptable alternative might be to make small donations or individual subscriptions to parties tax-deductible, as in Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

If the union link declines further, a strong individual membership is essential, not just financially but also in terms of organisation. Even in America, where the unions are historically weak and do not have a formal voting role in the Democratic Party, they provide many of its local activists and much of the money and effort in election campaigns, as was seen at the Chicago convention last month. In France, the Socialists have traditionally had weak links with the unions and the party has been prone to factionalism and ideological divisions.

In Britain, the unions were the ballast that prevented Labour from being taken over by ideological zealots in the 1930s and the 1950s, which why past right-of-centre leaders from Hugh Gaitskell to John Smith defended their role. But Mr Blair questions the right of union leaders to speak on behalf of their much smaller numbers of members now, when class and political identities are looser. His reforms have also sidelined activist zealots as much as unions. A lot, however, rides on the good sense of individual party members, as well as their pocket.

Distancing Labour from the unions may be good electoral politics, even though the latest rows give the impression of disunity and a lack of direction, and may produce a union backlash at the party conference in a fortnight's time. Mr Blair will seek to regain the initiative in a speech this evening by highlighting how a Labour government would seek to change Britain. In the long term, however, the real question is whether the "new" party he is creating will have deep and strong enough roots — whether it is possible to have a centre-left party not based on class and union interests.



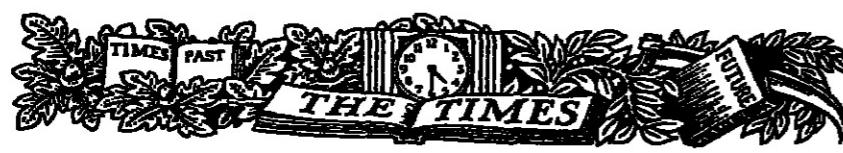
Bossi, symbol and leaf

certain senators who have said that the Northern League, a superficially Conservative, modish group, is in fact a secret hippy enclave.

A leaf motif similar to that of Bossi's image-conscious party is used by a radical group lobbying for the legalisation of drugs.

P.H.S

مكتبة من الأصل



WHAT'S IN A NAME

Socialism is a part of Labour's present as well as its past

When Kim Howells, the Labour Party's trade and industry spokesman, declared yesterday that "the word socialism should be humanely phased out", he must have expected, and indeed relished, the torrent of abuse he received from the party's old guard. But this row is more interesting than the usual Labour storm in a teacup. For changing attitudes to the word "socialism" reveal a great deal about the changing face of the Labour Party — and about whether these superficial changes reflect what is really going on in the party's soul.

Socialism is a word with a long and complex history, which closely parallels the history of Labour's beliefs. From its earliest days, socialism has been defined as much by what it opposed as by what it promised. In the early 19th century socialism was the doctrine of common ownership of property — and therefore the antithesis of capitalism, a word which was also coined at about the same time. But in Britain it soon acquired an alternative, less threatening meaning.

The Fabian socialists were reformist, not revolutionaries. They were dedicated to making capitalism more equal and more democratic, rather than sweeping it away. Many of the pre-war Fabians shared with the revolutionaries their attachment to widespread nationalisation. However, they saw state ownership not as an end in itself but as a means to social justice and (ironically) to greater economic efficiency.

In the 1950s and 1960s, when the Labour Party went through an internal upheaval easily equal to the one now imposed by Tony Blair, the struggle was between two definitions of socialism. The old guard believed that the essence of socialism was public ownership and nationalisation. The "revisionists", led by Anthony Crosland, argued that socialism was not about property ownership but about equality and justice.

Socialism could be achieved by leaving the

economy in capitalist hands, but then redistributing the wealth and income it produced. This revisionist socialism defined itself in opposition not to capitalism and private ownership but to inequality and injustice. The revisionists may have been "moderates" on nationalisation, but they were firebrands when it came to equality. They advocated punitive tax rates and were zealous for comprehensive education and council housing.

Today egalitarian socialism is often derided as "the politics of envy", partly because of its poor economic and social record and partly because of the growth of middle-class aspirations. The essence of Mr Blair's political project, therefore, has been to define a new ideology that would make Labour fit for the modern world. He has tried to do this by attaching yet another meaning to that old word socialism.

Mr Blair refers to "socialism" as a doctrine which recognises that man is a social animal and stresses the community, and not just the individual, as the main unit of politics. This "socialism" is opposed not to capitalism or to inequality but to the narrow individualism which Mr Blair sees as characterising the Thatcher decades. The trouble with this ideology is twofold.

First, Mr Blair's socialism is so commonplace as to be almost meaningless. The sense of community — from the local neighbourhood to the nation state — play a central part in Conservative traditions. And it is not clear whether Mr Blair has anything distinctive to add to these values. The second problem for Mr Blair is that many of his troops have not yet moved from the second to the third phase of the Labour Party's reforms. Mr Blair may believe equality and redistribution are not essential to his "socialism". But unless he can be more specific about his new ideology, he will have trouble winning the confidence of his party or of the electorate at large.

INSTABILITY PACT

Every step towards EMU makes the destination less attractive

European finance ministers are due to take another giant step towards the *terra incognita* of monetary union this Friday. They are to meet in Dublin to approve an outline agreement on financial penalties for governments and parliaments which join the single currency and then fail to stick to the Maastricht treaty's budgetary requirements. The deal quietly cobbled together in Brussels seems to have met the long-standing German demand for a permanent "stability pact" which would impose large fines on EMU governments that borrow above the limits set at Maastricht. At the same time it has apparently overcome French objections to a further erosion of national sovereignty.

The Germans, it seems, have agreed to reduce slightly the scale of the proposed sanctions and, more importantly, to introduce an element of political discretion into the levying of fines. In return for this small gesture of pragmatism, the other nations have conceded the huge principle that the European Council would become the final arbiter of national policies on taxes and public spending.

Looking at the way the stability pact would operate in practice as opposed to the principles on which it is based, the French calculation is easier to understand, if not to endorse. The tough stability pact demanded last year by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, is now riddled with loopholes. Instead of fines being levied automatically when a country exceeds the deficit limits, the government in question will now be given nine months to mend its ways. It will then escape punishment if its plans for fiscal retrenchment are "credible".

or its deficits are "temporary and exceptional". In other words, the new fiscal sanctions will become just another item for horse-trading in the great Brussels bazaar.

The stability pact is also necessary to persuade the German people that they can safely give up the mark. EMU can only go ahead in 1999 if the deficit criteria laid down in the Maastricht treaty are fudged. Either the targets will simply be overridden, or the deficits reported for 1997 will be shamelessly massaged. A recent decision by the French Government to include a one-off payment worth nearly £5 billion from France Telecom in its 1997 budget will doubtless be the precursor of many such accountancy tricks. In the face of such trickery, the stability pact may counteract the impression that the euro will be a "soft" currency in the long run.

But even if the stability pact does help to dupe the German public into accepting EMU, it can only increase the long-range political perils attending the whole project. As the French doubtless hope, the stability pact turns out to be nothing more than a piece of paper, it can only increase the danger of a backlash when the German public and the financial markets realise they have been duped. If, on the other hand, the stability pact turns into a permanent encroachment on national economic sovereignty, the risks of political conflict among the governments and peoples of Europe will be magnified.

In practice, the stability pact is likely to disappoint the Germans and anger the other countries at the same time. With every step that Europe takes towards monetary union, the destination looks less attractive and Britain seems wiser to be left behind.

PASS GO, COLLECT 200

Popular games must appeal to basic human instincts

At lunchtime today the new world Monopoly champion will emerge at Monte Carlo, having bankrupted the national champions from 35 countries. In the rest of the world, the Middle East trembles on the brink. Bishops may have gone absent without leave, and the Prime Minister has been visiting the Queen (a keen Monopoly-player) at Balmoral. But for the wide little world of fantasy property-dealers and game-players, the most exciting event of the weekend has been the world Monopoly championships.

And this is odd, because for those unadmitted to or grown out of its attractions, the boring old board game could just as well be renamed Monotony. For Monopoly, like monogamy, leaves a lot to be desired. Its property values are obsolete. Few would have fancied a hotel in Islington when the game was invented. But Islington has become the home of would-be Prime Ministers. While Oxford Street and Piccadilly, once deemed highly desirable properties, have become tawdry honeypots on the tourist trail. The world championships are using the American version of the game invented at the end of the Depression. And 60 years on there are many more desirable pieces of real estate in the United States, and probably even in Atlantic City, than Park Place and Board Walk.

The public utilities of water and electricity are the least profitable squares on the board to land on. When offered at auction, they often attract no bidders. But in the brave new world off the board, being chairman of

a privatised public utility or a railway station has become a licence to print money, pension rights, share options and the title of fat cat. The phrase "Monopoly money" has escaped from the box of "Uncle Pennybags". The Monopoly man, into the fantasy world of directors' salary packages. Inflation has so increased the price of everything that there is no room on a card or a square of the board to print the value of winning a beauty contest or making repairs to all one's hotels.

The notion of free parking only die's throw from the Strand is a bad joke. Though going to jail, going directly to jail, as an escape from a rack-renting landlord still holds its attractions. And in getting out of jail early for a small fee or holding the right card, life has been imitating art.

Yet there is no denying the lasting appeal of this most popular of patented board games. It is published in 25 languages as well as Braille, and its crude capitalism is unsurprisingly popular in the countries of the former Soviet Union. Substituting little portable telephones or model moderns for its tokens of metal top hat and shoe would destroy the antique charm.

For the funny game provides the thrills of venture capitalism without the risks or the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It appeals to basic instincts of acquisitiveness and competition, without income tax returns or harming those who lose. A man is never more harmlessly employed than when making Monopoly money. Provided he does not die of boredom.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

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Labour, trade unions and the perils of job insecurity

From Mr Frank Allaun

Sir, Widespread fears have been aroused by suggestions (reports, September 13 and 14; leading articles, September 12 and 14) that the umbilical cord between Labour and the unions may be cut. It would be fatal to both. They represent, politically and industrially, the interests of those who work for their living.

The major effect of such a split could defeat Labour's chances of winning the next election. For example, the most popular of the TUC demands is for a minimum wage of £4.26 an hour. It is not only fair: it will also bring hope to the five million who earn less.

The overwhelming backing of TUC delegates showed that they understand what it means. It was the unions' impetus that first evolved and then promoted the demand. Their feet are on the ground.

What is especially regrettable about any suggestion by Mr Stephen Byers, Shadow Employment Minister, of a break between Labour and the unions is that it could not have been made by a parliamentary spokesman without the approval of higher figures in the party.

Ours is a trade union and Labour movement. And long may it stay so.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUN
(Labour MP for Salford East, 1955-83),
11 Eastleigh Road, Manchester.
September 15.

From Mr Michael Foster

Sir, I find it difficult to understand how the cordial reception of Tony Blair at the TUC is interpreted on your front page of September 12 as a "snub" and the decisions on a £4.26 minimum wage and rejection of a postal pay ballot as a "double rebuff".

The TUC did not "defy" Mr Blair on a minimum wage. As he made clear, the unions have different responsibilities from the Labour Party.

It would be very unfair if the TUC, as a potential participant in Labour's intended low-pay commission, should in advance suggest a lower figure than the £4.26 which they have proposed, but one has to start somewhere.

In short, people are now being systematically misled and are rapidly coming to disbelieve everything that they hear and read. Even parliamentary candidates, in all parties, soon to fight a general election, may have no clear idea what the thinking of their own leaders really is on some important questions.

School league tables

From the National Director of the Independent Schools Information Service

Sir, Jeremy Baker's equation of independent schools' success at university entrance and "the impact of money" (letter, September 5) is too simplistic.

A great many distinguished independent schools which appear in the league tables have annual fees within a few hundred pounds of the average cost of a sixth-form place in the maintained sector, which is at least £3,600. Since the latter cost does not include items which must be covered by independent school fees — such as capital expenditure and administration — we must conclude that independent schools' academic pre-eminence is attributable to factors other than throwing "three times more money" at their pupils.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. WOODHEAD,
National Director,
Independent Schools Information Service,
56 Buckingham Gate, SW1.
September 6.

Aksumite obelisk

From Mr Stephen Bell

Sir, Professor Richard Pankhurst (letter, September 7) draws attention to Italy's unfulfilled commitment, dating from her 1947 peace treaty with the United Nations, to restore to Ethiopia the 2,000-year-old Aksumite obelisk within 18 months of the signing of that treaty.

There is an additional and urgent dimension to this long overdue legal obligation. The 24-metre-high granite obelisk, re-erected in 1937 in the Piazza di Porta Capena in Rome on the 15th anniversary of Mussolini's seizure of power, is now showing the effects of serious pollution from traffic fumes. Being carved on all four sides, the obelisk is, incidentally, a particularly fine example of the genre.

The cost of its transport back to Ethiopia and the frailty of its condition have been deployed by Italian officialdom as arguments against its restoration. Earlier this year, however, Dr Vincenzo Francaviglia of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (National Council of Research) published his conclusion that it could be re-erected without difficulty into the five pieces into which it had broken when it was toppled, probably when the Falasha Queen Gudit sacked Aksum in the 10th century.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BELL,
2 The Row,
Spalding, Newark, Nottinghamshire.
September 8.

Sport letters, page 36

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

From the Shadow Minister for Employment

Sir, As Philip Bassett's astute analysis of job insecurity (Business, September 13) shows, Mr William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has been echoing his Cabinet colleague, Ian Lang, who maintained that job insecurity was just "a state of mind".

Ministers may talk up falling figures on the unemployment register, but nobody believes the claimant count is a serious measure of the true state of unemployment, which is at least double.

The Government's Labour Force Survey ("A combination that continues to stoke the political fires", Business, September 11) revealed that 393,000 workers have "gone missing" since the last election. Unemployment fell from its peak in December 1992 by 834,000; employment rose by only 441,000.

Mr Waldegrave also seems unaware that well over half the people who leave the dole for a job will be back in the jobcentre within a year.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HAIN,
House of Commons.
September 13.

Openness in politics

From Mr Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield (Labour)

Sir, Conflicting accounts of the real intentions of "new" Labour towards the trade unions highlight a much deeper problem. Across the whole political spectrum the public is being fed, every day, a diet of political news increasingly based upon anonymous briefings, leaks, nods and winks; and if these stories are then thought to be embarrassing, denials are furnished by other unnamed but supposedly authoritative sources.

In short, people are now being systematically misled and are rapidly coming to disbelieve everything that they hear and read. Even parliamentary candidates, in all parties, soon to fight a general election, may have no clear idea what the thinking of their own leaders really is on some important questions.

This is not an argument between the Left and Right but a plea for greater integrity in politics — and in the reporting of politics.

Yours etc,
TONY BENN,
House of Commons,
September 15.

These practices, combined with the emphasis on highly personalised and destructive campaigning, represent a direct threat to democracy which should allow the electors to make a clear choice between clear alternatives presented positively.

The most immediate victims of all are the journalists who are bullied and threatened by the spin-doctors into publishing what they have been told to publish.

All elected people should say what they have to say, on the record, and journalists should be far less willing to listen to those who refuse to be named.

This is not an argument between the Left and Right but a plea for greater integrity in politics — and in the reporting of politics.

Yours etc,
TONY BENN,
House of Commons,
September 15.

Publication of Scrolls

From Mr D. A. Parker

Sir, Your leading article on the cultural importance of the Linear B decipherment ("Man and minotaur", September 6) sounded a resonance with another long outstanding but politically more ignominious decipherment and interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Why has it taken over 30 years to publish extracts of the Dead Sea Scrolls, in a known and translatable script, while the Linear B tablets were expeditiously published from a previously untranslatable format?

Surely the full and unencumbered publication of the Scrolls can only serve and add to our cultural understanding of the pre-Christian era and the roots of Judaic and Christian religions.

Yours sincerely,
DARRYL A. PARKER,
20 Sunnydale, Mill Hill, NW7.
September 9.

Flying in style

From Mr Anthony Jacks

Sir, Mr Bob Prescott's letter (September 9; see also letter September 11) reminds me that on September 3, 1939, aged 15, I flew home from Alexandria in the Imperial Airways C Class flying boat *Corinna*.

Air travel in those days was surprisingly comfortable, a mere 17 passengers, large leather armchairs with unlimited legroom and even pull-down bunks (although these were used only when we were moored on the water).

There was a bar at one end of the aircraft from which one collected drinks and a promenade deck from which to view the scene below. The aircraft proceeded at a leisurely 150 knots and at a few thousand feet of altitude, so there was ample time to take in the surrounding countryside.

Heads were held high and the atmosphere was crystal clear.

The following day we landed in Brindisi and were surrounded by armed Blackshirts. Eventually we were allowed to proceed and flew through (not over) the Appennines. There was a strong headwind and it was a little disconcerting to discover that we were being passed by cars on the road below.

It took us three days to get home with numerous diversions. During this time our main worry was not being shot down by enemy aircraft or interned in an unfriendly country. What concerned us most of all was the altimeter at the end of the cabin over the bar. This was the size of a station clock and when we were moored safely on the water indicated that we were still 500 feet above sea level.

Yours sincerely,
A. R. JACKS,
2 Rossen Beck,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
September 11.

ents' house, but that was at Sam and Scruffy was fast asleep.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON DOUGHTY,
15 Grattan Drive,
Windsor, Berkshire.
September 12.

From Mr Alan Hadifield

Sir, My parents' cat, Katie, used to spend much of her week as a cool and dignified animal, but not on Thursdays, when from early in the morning she would mill around the house and from garden and become quite agitated until the fish man from Fleetwood made his call.

She would ride up and down the cul-de-sac on top of his van and could later be seen attempting to eat steaming hot fish, no doubt regretting that she was not equipped to blow on it.

OBITUARIES

Juliet Prowse, actress and dancer, died of cancer in Los Angeles on September 14 aged 59. She was born in Bombay on September 25, 1936.

Juliet Prowse was a superb dancer and a fine actress and singer, whose misfortune it was to be born 20 years too late for the big Hollywood musical. Her legs, which were just comparison to Betty Grable's, were still a marvel in middle age, as were her high-energy dance routines. Like Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, she could have complained with some justification that it was the pictures that had got small, not her talent. But complaining was never her style. She enjoyed every twist of her long career, and approached her professional injuries with brisk good humour. Her numerous love affairs, which included a brief engagement to Frank Sinatra, were a subject of fevered fascination for the British tabloid press.

Prowse appeared in few major Hollywood films, perhaps because actresses like Shirley MacLaine beat her to those rare parts written for women of her wide talents in the 1960s. *Can Can*, on the set of which she met Frank Sinatra, was an exception. The film promised to make her a star, not only because of her excellent performance, but because Nikita Khrushchev, who was visiting America, had been invited onto the set.

He appeared in good spirits while he watched Prowse

high-kicking through the dance routine, but afterwards decided that it would be politic to express moral disapproval of this sort of American debauchery, and described Prowse as "lascivious, disgusting and immoral". Prowse, who admitted the dance was "not exactly Swan Lake", laughed off what she immediately recognised as propaganda. The following day her photograph appeared in every newspaper in America.

Prowse was born in Bombay where her father was the British manager for Westinghouse. He died when she was three and the family moved to South Africa, where Juliet studied dancing. She joined the Festival Ballet in Johannesburg at 14, and became known as their "baby ballerina". But a late growing spurt put paid to her classical career. Dancers tended to be shorter in those days — the other girls were typically 5 ft 3 in. At 5 ft 5 in, Prowse was beginning to dwarf some of the men, particularly when she was on pointe.

Switching to modern dance, she came to London at 17 and found work in the chorus line of *Kismet* and *Mother Goose*. Later she went to Paris, where she appeared in a topless dance club. As she was considered to be English, and therefore more modest than the French girls, the management told her she could keep her top on. Engagements in Madrid and Rome followed and it was there that she was spotted by Hermes Pan, the choreographer of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Pan thought

her the best woman dancer he had ever seen. He was then working with Frank Sinatra and Shirley MacLaine on *Porter's Can Can*, the film of the musical about a Parisian nightclub dancer in the 1920s who is sued for performing the illegal dance. Prowse was persuaded by Pan to join the cast and the film was released in 1960.

The publicity of Khrushchev's visit had made Prowse's elegant dancer's body, soft red hair and green eyes familiar to every American who read a newspaper. More intense publicity was to follow when it was leaked that, not only was she having an affair with Frank Sinatra but also with Elvis Presley, the star on her next film, *GI Blues* (also 1960), in which she played a cabaret dancer to his guitar-playing army gunner. At one point she was reported to be seeing both of them at the same time.

Prowse thought Presley adorable, in those days before the "poor dear", as she referred to him, had problems. But the affair with Sinatra was the more serious, and led to a six-week engagement. In retrospect, she felt she had been as much flattered by, as in love with, him and was convinced the marriage would not have worked. Sinatra was notorious for a chauvinistic attitude towards his wives' careers — his marriages to Ava Gardner and (later) Mia Farrow founded on just that issue. "He wanted a 24-hour wife," Prowse said, and she wanted to carry on working.

More films followed in the 1960s: *The Second Time Around* (1961) with Rock Hudson. After privately struggling for years with her weight (though she never looked anything but slim when she performed), she settled into a rigorous healthy regime which kept her at a constant nine stone. She became expert in yoga. Her legs, which were her fortune, were insured by Lloyd's for a million dollars and were still spectacular enough in middle age to win her a contract to advertise hosiery. She had also secretly been suffering from arthritis since youth. Fortunately she found relief from this in middle age with the coming of more sophisticated drugs.

By now Prowse had cut her strawberry blonde hair into a fashionable urchin style and the British press showed no restraint in their descriptions of her beauty. In 1969 she briefly took over from Ginger Rogers in *Mame* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. That year, after more failed romances and engagements, she married the television actor John McCook. But that marriage, too, ended in divorce, after she had given birth to her only child, a son.

In the 1970s, though she was now over 40, she continued to develop as dancer. There was a show with Anthony Newley at the Palladium in 1979 in which Prowse, scantily clad, was hurled around stage by a cohort of shirtless male dancers. She spent about four months a year in Las Vegas and appeared on Broadway.

She stretched herself by taking on the occasional straight play, and toured Canada, South Africa and Britain

Shes survived by her son.

JULIET PROWSE



WING COMMANDER CLIVE BEADON

Wing Commander Clive Beadon, DFC, Second World War bomber pilot, died in hospital at Windsor on September 14 aged 77. He was born in India on April 15, 1919.

A MAN who never thought himself as a hero, Clive Beadon was certainly not set in any conventional heroic mould. A gentle man, he always seemed, with his precise manner and eternally contemplative air, more like an academic from some university cloister than bomber pilot. Indeed, he rarely mentioned that part of his life. Certainly no one who knew him after his retirement from the RAF would have guessed that he had once flown a burning bomber 1,000 miles rather than bale out and save his own skin.

Clive Vernon Beadon was the elder son of an Indian Army officer. He was educated at the Imperial Service College, Windsor, where he won a scholarship to Sandhurst. But he elected to go instead to the RAF College, Cranwell, where he trained to become a pilot.

In July 1939 he began his flying career in 101 Squadron, piloting Blenheims. After the outbreak of war, he served in 502 Squadron, Coastal Command, flying Whitleys. But it was after Japan's invasion of Burma in 1942 that the really remarkable part of his service career began.

In 1944 he was flying a Liberatory bomber at very low level to attack Japanese supply trains on the Bangkok-Chiangmai railway, when his aircraft was hit by Japanese anti-aircraft fire. Its tailplane was very badly damaged and his rear gunner was killed. With the tail section of the aircraft an inferno of flames and smoke, Beadon had great difficulty in maintaining height. But as he was on the point of giving the order to jump, he discovered that the only parachute not destroyed by fire was his own.

The lives of his men therefore now depended on his skill as a pilot. In an astonishing feat of airmanship, he nursed the wounded and burning



Beadon with his second wife Jane at their wedding in 1965

Liberator more than a thousand miles back to base. For this, he would never afterwards take the credit. "I always think God's hand must have been at those controls that day," he used to say. But his crew were under no illusion. Every year, its surviving members wrote to him at Christmas and on his birthday. Their message was always the same: "To the skipper who saved our lives."

For this, and numerous other acts of heroism, Beadon was awarded the DFC. The citation, published in the *London Gazette* on August 17, 1945, described him as "an exceptional and courageous flight commander who by his enthusiasm and fine fighting spirit has set an inspiring example to the other members of his squadron."

Characteristically, Beadon remained on active service in South East Asia, and was unavailable for a Buckingham Palace investiture. But King George VI, meeting him later, at once recollected the circumstances of the award and told Beadon: "It is to men like you

that we owe our freedom." In 1947 he married Vicki Oliver, whose two-year-old son John by her previous marriage became so devoted to Beadon that he took his name by deed poll and was brought up in every sense as his own child. In 1950 Beadon took command of 297 Squadron, piloting Hastings transport aircraft.

But his days of adventure were not over. In 1953 the British Government sent him to Entebbe on a mission of extreme political delicacy. His orders were to abduct the Kabaka of Buganda, Sir Edward Frederick Mutesa ("King Freddie"), whose life was considered to be in danger from growing unrest in his country. As anticipated, the Kabaka did not leave willingly. While Beadon kept his engines running on the tarmac, King Freddie smiled and shook hands. He never blamed Beadon, even when, after his final overthrow in 1966, the deposed ruler found himself living on national assistance in a Bermondsey tenement. From 1954 until 1957 Beadon was British Air Attaché in Caracas. In 1962 he joined the Ministry of Defence as a pilot training and navigation specialist.

His first wife died from cancer in 1964, and at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on February 11, 1965, Beadon made a hugely publicised second marriage to Mrs Jane Whigham, the 51-year-old widow of the multimillionaire textile magnate, George Hay Whigham, and stepmother of the celebrated society beauty, Margaret Duchess of Argyll.

The couple sailed on the Cunard liner *Queen Elizabeth* to a honeymoon in Nassau, in the Bahamas, which they spent at Seashaven, the mansion on Cable Beach of Mrs Beadon's late husband. Their presence there caused fury on the part of her es-

tranged stepdaughter, the Duchess, whom Jane Beadon had sued the previous year for libel, slander and conspiracy, winning £25,000 in damages.

After his retirement from the RAF in 1966 Beadon, already the inventor of a jungle suit and the escape kit for airmen, became one of the world's leading authorities on dowsing, and Vice-President of the British Society of Dowsers. He possessed an uncanny ability — often using only a map, a pendulum and a small container of crude oil — to pinpoint the location of large deposits of oil in far-off places, such as Africa and South America. British Petroleum, sceptical of such claims, asked for a practical demonstration. They were so shaken by its accuracy that they told him: "This could be used for industrial espionage. Please keep it to yourself."

For his work as a dowser, Beadon invented a pendulum and what he termed a "spiral of tranquillity", both acrylic models containing small gemstones of his own selection. He said the function of these was "to correct the Earth's unbalanced energy lines within their immediate vicinity". In February 1996 he appeared on the ITV programme *The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna* and, again using only a map, a pendulum, and a small deposit of oil, said he had located "between 50 and 75 million gallons of oil" in Windsor Great Park, south of the castle and just north of Frogmore House. But he estimated that to extract the oil could risk polluting most of London's water supply.

A Scot descended from the actress Sarah Siddons, his second wife Jane proved to be a woman of great strength of character and their marriage was a very happy one. Even after her confinement to a wheelchair through the onset of multiple sclerosis, she bravely fought through his own battle against Raynaud's disease and a recent stroke. Clive Beadon had no children of his own by either of his marriages. He is survived by Jane and by his stepson from his first marriage.

RAY COLEMAN

Ray Coleman former editor of *Melody Maker*, died of cancer on September 10 aged 59. He was born in Leicester on June 15, 1937.

AT THE TIME Ray Coleman was beginning his journalistic career, the concept of the teenager had yet to be invented, and any suggestion that popular music was a subject for discussion in the serious press would have caused breakfast-time apoplexy across the Shires. That in the week of his death the front pages of both tabloids and broadsheets covered as a matter of apparently national importance the latest soap-opera episode in the career of the Manchester band Oasis demonstrates neatly just how much times changed within his working lifetime.

Now, pop provides a daily backdrop not just for teenagers but for a large section of the population often widely separated by age, education and background. Its personalities and cultural significance are deemed worthy of discussion by even the most heavyweight newspapers. Pop music has not merely achieved respectability, but has acquired its own "scholarship" and secondary literature. Coleman was, though not self-publicising or high profile, a significant figure in that area of the media which documented and, to a large extent, helped to influence that change.

His first wife died from cancer in 1964, and at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on February 11, 1965, Beadon made a hugely publicised second marriage to Mrs Jane Whigham, the 51-year-old widow of the multimillionaire textile magnate, George Hay Whigham, and stepmother of the celebrated society beauty, Margaret Duchess of Argyll.

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trangement specialists offered enthusiasm rather than news awareness. He proved a valuable addition: investigative reporting, rather than breathless reportage, was his style, and the paper acquired a new professionalism as a result.

When Beatlemania broke loose in 1963, *Melody Maker* shifted its axis to become essential reading for the new wave of young pop fans. Newly confirmed as deputy editor, Coleman was dispatched on tour with the four Liverpudlians, and his quiet professionalism quickly won their trust and respect, coming as a welcome antidote to the media mayhem unfolding all around them.

His relationship with John Lennon proved particularly strong, and his first book was to be a two-volume biography, compiled with the co-operation of both Cynthia Lennon and Yoko Ono, and published in 1984, four years after the star's death. Subsequently he also completed an exhaustive work on the group's manager, Brian Epstein, who died in 1967.

Coleman left *Melody Maker* in 1967 to take charge of the sister paper *Disc*, but returned three years later as editor. Sharpening its edge by hiring young writers with a similar local newspaper background to his own, he took the title to a circulation in excess of 200,000 copies in 1972 — still a record for a weekly music publication.

The Coleman style was for a front page dominated by dramatic stories of impending tours and new releases by the

top acts of the day — or, there being nothing new under the sun, fallings-out and break-ups. Always keen to promote new young talent, both journalistic and musical, he put the paper's considerable influence behind the fledgeling careers of such pop acts as Elton John, Roxy Music and David Bowie, and was not fazed even when the first stirrings of the punk movement were noted in mid-1970s London.

Ironically, it was almost as if punk's inherent lack of respect for established values was to be the *Melody Maker's* undoing, and the title became eclipsed in both sales and street cred by its younger and more irreverent sister paper, the *New Musical Express*.

In 1979, Coleman stepped down as editor — but retained a senior position within the publishers IPC for two further years, helping to launch such titles as *Black Music* and *Musicians Only* — to concentrate on freelance journalism and book-writing.

In addition to his Beatles-related works, these included collaborations with the Rolling Stone Bill Wyman on his autobiography *Stone Alone*, and with Gerry Marsden on *I'll Never Walk Alone*. Among other titles, he also published a biography of Eric Clapton and, most recently, in 1994, an incisive and well-received study of the professional and private lives of the Carpenters. At the time of his death he was nearing completion of an authorised life of Phil Collins.

Ray Coleman is survived by his wife, Pamela, and by two sons.



ON THIS DAY

September 16, 1918

During the closing stages of the war correspondents were glad to come across stories which told of personal experiences behind the lines.

Learn French. When the war broke out he joined his regiment and a month later the Germans entered the town. I lived with my aunt here. [A lady of middle-age, who spoke French with a foreign accent and was present in the little room where we talked, its walls adorned with photographs of her husband and relatives.] We got very little to eat and were forced to find shelter in a cave whenever shelling began. Those who consented to work for the Germans in the fields or in washing clothes or other employment were paid in paper money, the conversion of which into hard cash was "guaranteed" two years after the war. Those who went to the fields were

under military escort. I was imprisoned in the Marne for three weeks on suspicion of being a spy. Our greatest troubles were getting food, clothes, and news from the outside world. Every day we had to go out and buy our food from the supplies that the American Relief Committee had sent us. The Germans were in a similar plight. Clothes, too, came through the relief committees, but the majority of us had to dress as best we could.

To get news from our relatives we had to apply to the Red Cross. I got news from my father on several occasions, but although I often wrote to him I doubt whether he got my messages, for he always asked for news. For news we were supplied with the *Gazette des Ardennes*, the newspaper printed in French by the Germans for the occupied regions, and naturally filled with nothing but what the Germans wished us to believe. About a year ago I became so dispirited when I read of German successes day by day, but it was only momentary and I used to tell the Germans that all would come right for us one day.

When they left they seemed to think something had gone wrong. We knew nothing of the Allies' successes and the first indication of a retreat were when the Germans made preparations to evacuate the town.

Church news

Next Bishop of Southampton
The Rev Canon Jonathan Gledhill, Vicar, St Mary Bredin, Canterbury, diocese of Canterbury, and an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, to be Suffragan Bishop of Southampton, in the diocese of Winchester, succeeding the Rt Rev John Perry, now Bishop of Chelmsford.

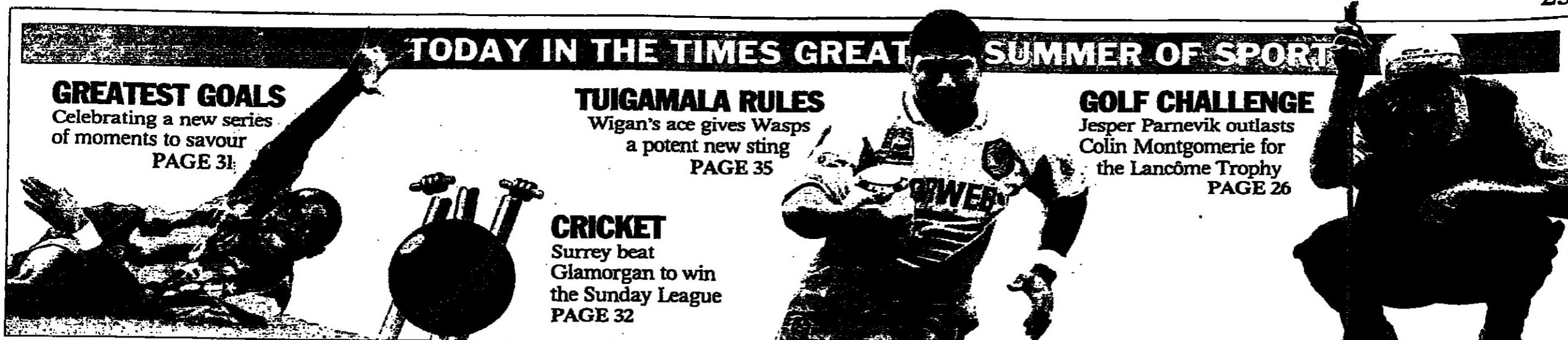
Other appointments
The Rev Jonathan Baker, Assistant Curate, Sandersfoot All Saints (Southwark); to be Priest-in-charge, Sculby w Ravenscar and Stainton Dale, and Priest-in-charge, Hackness w Harwood Dale (York).
The Rev David Berry, Vicar, "Maidan's" Barrow-in-Furness (Carlisle); to be Chaplain, St Mary's, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (Europe).

The Rev Marc Boutan, Assistant Priest, St Andrew's, Mount Pleasant (South Carolina, ECUSA); to be Assistant

Team Rector, Howden Team Ministry (York).
The Rev Philip Hudd, Curate, St Mark, Kirkby; to be Priest-in-charge of that parish (Liverpool).
The Rev Andrew Davey, Priest-in-charge, Clenchwarton, and Priest-in-charge, West Lynn; to be Rector, united benefice of Clenchwarton and West Lynn (Ely).
The Rev Lesley de Pomerai, Priest-in-charge, Leam Lane (Durham); to resign September 30, with permission to officiate, same diocese.
The Rev John Loxton, Vicar, Turners Hill (Chichester); to retire September 30.
The Rev Canon Bill Peters, Rector, Uckfield (Chichester); retired August 31.
The Rev Kenneth Withington, Vicar, Cricklade w Latton, and Rural Dean of Cricklade (Bristol).
The Rev Ian Ellery, Rector, Parrington w Holmey, Welfwick, and Winestead; to retire January 31, 1997.

FOUR YEARS A CAPTIVE AT ST. MIHIEL
THE EXPERIENCES OF AN IRISH GIRL
(From a Special Correspondent)
American Army, Sept. 13
The people of St. Mihiel, delivered from German rule after four years, to-day brought out their best clothes they could find, and celebrated the day by shaking hands with all who went into the town.
I had the strange experience of meeting an Irish girl who had been in the town all through the German occupation. It was while walking through one of the main streets, stopping to chat with civilians who hastened to shake hands, that a voice with an Irish brogue greeted me and a colleague with the question: "Are you American?" We answered that we were, first in reply, then to enter the town. This young Irish girl, Miss Aline Henry, of Tuberidge House, Dundore, County Longford, Ireland, was a real Union Jack bow, cackling exultantly, "How wonderful! Why, I'm Irish!" As a patriotic house she told us the story of her life in St. Mihiel.

"I came over to France in June, 1914, to live with my uncle, a major in the French Army, to



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1996



Leboeuf ghosts in at the far post to steer the ball past Oakes, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, and score Chelsea's equaliser at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspinall

Stalemate at Stamford Bridge allows Liverpool to go top of Premiership

Villa survive test of timing

Chelsea 1
Aston Villa 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

BRIAN LITTLE, the Aston Villa manager, wore the look of a relieved man. He was reflecting on the moment just before half-time that Chelsea scored their equalising goal and described it as potentially decisive. In the event, Chelsea were denied the victory that would have put them on top of the FA Carling Premiership and had to settle for a draw. It was a just enough result, after an excellent first half and a second half that faded away in the bright sunshine at Stamford Bridge.

Little admitted that Chelsea's goal, put in on the blind side by Leboeuf, from Petrescu's curling pass, suddenly put his team under pressure. "You've got to come through that," he said, "and we were pleased to come through but

disappointed in the way we gave the ball away. In the first half, we did well and I was pleased with that. In the second half we gave it away too much for my liking. We had a good first touch. I liked that, but we were sloppy with our second ball. We stopped it too often instead of keeping the ball moving. Because of that, they kept us in our own half."

Significantly, Chelsea's manager, Ruud Gullit, still postponing his own, much awaited return to the field, changed his strategy after the interval. Johnsen, who was injured, came off and in his place, Gullit boldly sent on Jodie Morris, 17, a little, natural inside forward, whose confidence grows game by game.

Switching his team's formation from 3-5-2 to 4-4-2, Gullit encouragingly showed that, unlike his predecessor, he makes neither a fetish nor a panacea of tactics. Little, for his part, told his own team: "It may be a compliment that the team said to be better than you at the system you're

GOALS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Liverpool	6	4	2	0	11	4	14
Man Utd	6	4	2	0	11	4	14
Chelsea	6	3	3	0	9	6	12
Shef Wed	6	3	3	0	9	6	12
Newcastle	6	3	3	0	9	7	12
Nottingham	6	3	3	0	9	7	12
Aston Villa	6	3	2	1	8	7	11
Wimbledon	6	3	2	1	8	7	11

playing had to change their system."

Villa did not change theirs, which worked pretty well defensively throughout the game. Little was "most pleased with Steve Staunton. He gave us a dimension down the left, but in the second half, when we were under pressure he hung in there". Villa played much attractive and progressive football in their first half, but it was a set-piece that brought them their goal in the eighteenth minute. Curic was brought down just outside the penalty box by Burley. Cunningh-

ton York touched it to Townsend, the former Chelsea player, whose left-foot shot snared into the far top corner, Hitchcock reaching it but failing to stop it.

Hitchcock, however, had several distinguished moments in Chelsea's goal. As early as the seventh minute, he saved a point-blank header by Milosovic. On the half-hour, Curic, working a one-two with Draper, darted through the Chelsea defence, only for Hitchcock to save again. Then, 18 minutes into the second half, when Nelson latched on to a half-cleared corner to fire in a shot, Hitchcock blocked it, though he must surely have seen the ball late.

Oakes, Villa's second-choice goalkeeper, was also performing well. In the first half he extended himself fully to turn over a clever lob by the adventurous Leboeuf, and in the second, he frustrated the same player by palming away a header. "Leboeuf has played very well," Gullit said, "and we were very

happy with him." Well he might be, and well Gullit might sympathise with Leboeuf and the other Chelsea players for the battering they had to endure at times under the eye of Jeff Winter, a referee at once permissive and unobservant. "I want to say a lot of things, but I think it is best I don't say anything," Gullit said.

Arsenal founder 27
Graham's task 28
Berger sparkles 29

Villa took the lead, had made a fine, saving tackle when Di Matteo burst through. To give Vialli his due, it was he who had set the movement going deep in his own half, holding the ball up before releasing it against three opponents. It was an act that promised much, but would, alas, be ultimately forgotten.

But Southgate, as we saw during Euro '96 has his, momentary aberrations — and I am not referring to that penalty — and one weak header in the first half enabled Myers to get in a shot that narrowly cleared the far right-hand post.

The feeling persists that we shall not see the best of Chelsea until Gullit plays, but that will only happen when his body tells him it is the right moment.

CHELSEA (4-4-2): K. Hitchcock — F. Leboeuf, S. Clarke, E. Johnsen (sub: J. Morris, 45min) — D. Petersen, D. Wilshere, C. Burley (sub: J. Spencer, 88), R. Milosovic, N. Nelson, S. Staunton, J. Townsend. ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Oakes — S. Staunton, U. Eriugwa, G. Southgate — F. Nelson, M. Draper, S. Curic, A. Townsend, J. Townsend — S. Milosevic (sub: J. Johnstone, 86), D. York. Referee: J. Winter.

FOOTBALL PAGES 27-31



"English clubs experienced mixed results in Europe, last week but it was hardly the disaster implied. Even by the usual standards there was a lot of rubbish talked."

Steve McManaman

Southgate, a few minutes before

THE TIMES FIRST FOR FOOTBALL

GIGGS



"Giggs is treading water. When he emerged, people imagined they saw a great player in the making. He will never be a great player now, that much is obvious." Michael Henderson

BASSETT



"I had to tell my players to focus on the game and not to read any of the newspapers. I never had that problem with players at Wimbledon and Sheffield United, because they couldn't read." Dave Bassett

McMANAMAN



"English clubs experienced mixed results in Europe, last week but it was hardly the disaster implied. Even by the usual standards there was a lot of rubbish talked."

Steve McManaman

FOOTBALL PAGES 27-31

ORACLE
Storage, Warehousing and Distribution

MORSE

FOOTBALL: NEW LEEDS MANAGER RECOGNISES NEED TO REINVENT HIMSELF AND HIS TEAM AFTER DEFEAT

Graham seeking double indemnity

Coventry City 2
Leeds United 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE GRAHAM is back to suffer, or as he put it on Saturday, to delight in, the outrageous slings and arrows of football fortune. Moments after he rose from the dugout, his Leeds United team having taken the lead after 51 seconds of his tenure and then failed by the width of the crossbar to rescue a point in the dying seconds, he must have heard the cruel chants of the Coventry City crowd: "One greedy bastard, there's only one greedy bastard."

Well, George Graham has been the only manager sacked from the game, and to boot, suspended from further employment for what amounted to 19 months, for receiving two unsolicited gifts, "bungs", from an agent amounting to £425,000. We all know it, we all had to accept the Football Association's remit on justice when they declared the length of the suspension. Surely now we have to afford this manager the same civil freedom to come back from his misdemeanour, to atone for it in the way that society provides even for convicted criminals.

It hardly matters what we think, or whether the FA Carling Premiership is ever going to fulfil its promise to name other managers who took similar "gifts". Graham took his punishment and vowed to come back at the top, to win trophies as a form of self-fulfilment, a kind of redemption.

Leeds United, he acknowledged on Saturday, are a good distance away from a side he can lick into the kind of shape that won him acclaim at Arsenal. Even before he could show what four days of training, morning and afternoon, might do towards reshaping the commitment of the Leeds players, he awoke Saturday morning to read a newspaper headline claiming that the Caspian Group that had taken over in the Leeds boardroom had paid him £100,000 to take no other job while it chose the moment to sack his good friend, Howard Wilkinson.

"I deny it emphatically, I had a laugh about it. It is complete and utter fabrication," Graham insisted. But he lied before the press were insistent. Would he follow up his denial with action?

"What do you mean, try to get it [the money]?"

George Graham, for all that



Graham appears to find little pleasure in his new role as manager of Leeds as he watches his side slip to defeat at Coventry on Saturday

he came among us with the firmest of handshakes and the most direct of eye contact, is having to recast his image out of deep mistrust.

Surely, the interrogators persisted, he would take legal recourse to such a damaging accusation on day one of his second public coming in top-line management?

Graham smiled and sought, metaphorically, to flick away the pestering as if it were a speck of dust on his elegant black jacket. "I'm trying to get away from lawyers in my life," he said, with a tone of finality. "I am back where I want to be, and I'm enjoying every minute of the challenge, even the pressure of the job."

The job can we please concentrate on the football. It was made easy for Leeds in that opening minute when Andy Gray forced down the left, surfed a tackle from Burrows, and found Rush

with his back to goal. Rush, relishing playing in the space behind a willing front runner, Mark Hateley, used his experience. He laid the ball back to the edge of the area and Andy Couzens, a youngster brought into the team by Graham, deliberately shaped his right-foot shot so that it curled off the outside of his boot beyond the groping Steve Ogrizovic.

For the whole of the first half, we could see the inklings of Graham's coaching — the effort, the camaraderie in terms of support play, the directness. Hateley, though in his mid-30s, was relishing the combat, relishing being an old-fashioned target man. He wore the blood on his yellow shirt, blood from a clash of heads with Burrows, like a war medal. He charged, he met the aerial ball time and time again. No wonder Leeds are trying to extend his loan from Queens Park Rangers

while the likes of Brian Deane and Tony Yeboah recover from surgery.

But Coventry, already under scrutiny as possible relegation material, were to eke out their fourteenth victory from 62 games under the million pounds per month spending of Ron Atkinson.

Full results and league tables Page 30

their manager. Big Ron believes in wingers, thank goodness. Paul Telfer surprised some of the Coventry unfathomable with his work on the right and would have equalised on the stroke of half-time had Nigel Martyn not produced a reflex save to turn his left-foot shot against a post.

But, scoring twice inside

seven minutes early in the

second half, Coventry prevailed. John Salako, quite the most eye-catching player on view, scored in the 57th minute by running with the ball from the halfway line, by anticipating and slipping the tackles at his ease and then beating Martyn with a low, angled shot. The goalkeeper thought he had his angles correct; the goalscorer had a better eye; the ball finished inch perfect inside the far post.

In the 64th minute, Burrows floated in a free kick. Dublin produced a deft back header Noel Whelan who, like McAllister, was sold by Leeds to Coventry, stole in to score with an imaginative short lob over Martyn.

In front of the dugouts, two high-profile managers were back in the old routine. Atkinson performed like a tic-tac man, gesticulating here, there and everywhere. Graham stood stiffly by the dugout.

dressed in the finest taste, the hand cupping the chin, deep in thought about what he knows will be quite a task. "I can't say how long it will take to impose my personality on Elland Road. It's demanding, but that's what I wanted," he said.

"Leeds, like Arsenal, are a big club, but when I took over at Arsenal the team had three internationals in the back four and a young Tony Adams. Even then we worked for a year until I drilled them into the method that won us big trophies."

The drill sergeant, if the media is willing, wishes to concentrate on the work ethic of the training fields.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2) P Ogrizovic — B Neville, R Johnson, G Palmer, D Irwin — J Popovski, N Butt (sub B McClellan, 40 mins), D Beckham, R Giggs — E Cantona, O Sotnikov (sub A Cole, 76)

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-1) N Martyn — G Kelly, D Wetherall, R Johnson, I Harte — R Lampard, A Coid, A Coid (sub M Ford, 80min), C Palmer, A Gray (sub J Bent, 57) — I Bush — M Harries

Referee: G Willard

Full results and league tables Page 30

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Full results and league tables Page 30

Boy wonder struggling to find feet in man's game

Michael Henderson suggests that Manchester United will gain little from domestic victories like the 4-1 drubbing of Nottingham Forest on Saturday

IT IS only September and yet it is fairly clear that Manchester United will have to play extremely badly not to retain the Premiership title. They have the ability, the depth and the experience that comes from finishing top — and that is where their problems start.

"In the kingdom of the blind ..." Really, if Nottingham Forest are one of the better teams in England, and recent history suggests that they are, United do not have much to beat. Returning to Old Trafford, tails between their legs, after observing the master footballers of Juventus, United ran in four goals for the second successive Saturday like so many batsmen feasting on county bowling after having had their whiskers singed in Test cricket.

The triumphalism at Old Trafford — among the crowd, that is, not the players, who saw at first hand last week how far short of glory they fell — betokens ignorance or immaturity. Alex Ferguson is not crowing. He brooded afterwards, partly because Nadal, the defender whom he covets, may not now be on his way from Barcelona; more likely because this common-or-garden victory tells him absolutely nothing about his side's ability.

There was some silly talk after the match in Turin last Wednesday that United pursued the wrong tactics, as if a different configuration could have made them pass the ball more accurately, or got their brains tickling. Not, all of it. They were not good enough, or clever enough. Teams schooled in the "oughest league in the world" rarely are when they are confronted by superior craftsmen.

Cantona, who shirks on the European stage, was impervious on Saturday, contributing to the first two goals and scoring the third with a raking 20-yard shot. Together with Beckham, who had another fine match, he ran rings round a dim-witted Forest side that has said to say, become terribly dull. United will go on winning like this all season, and it will profit them not a jot.

There is a very serious problem

that they have to address, a problem that reveals an awful lot about the football played on these shores.

Giggs, in the prime of his life, is

becoming water, if not actually regressing. When he emerged, four

years ago, people imagined that they

had a potentially great player in the

making. He will never be a great

player now, that much is obvious, but

at the moment he does not look

a very good one.

Last season, in the midst of some

Giggs-puffery, Ferguson said that he

had impressed upon him that "all the

great players have been able to pass

the ball." Well I never! All dancers

can pivot, all pianists can play a

dazzling arabesque, all actors can

remember lines; but that is only the

starring-point. The question is: what

then?

The ability to pass a ball, in a game

based entirely on mastery of it, is so

central to the practice of being a

footballer that it should be as natural

as breathing. Giggs must have lived

a very sheltered life indeed if he

learnt, on his coming of age, that

giving the ball to a team-mate was

the skill that underpinned all others.

Ferguson is a football man through

and through. Had he temporarily

taken leave of his senses?

Looking at Giggs in a properly

disinterested way, it seems plain that

he cannot cross the ball well, cannot

tackle at all, and refuses to use his

right foot. How can a 22-year-old,

who is paid £1 million a year, not kick

the ball with his right foot? What

does he do during the week? Why

was this weakness not spotted ten

years ago? He plays on the wing, for

goodness sake! What a glorious

joke!

All he has is an enormous natural

talent and, if that is not married to

intelligence, it will never be enough.

On Saturday, faced with a moderate

right back in Lyte, he never once

reached the byline. He scored a

header that anybody could have

nodded in, played one decent pass to

Solskjær, and that was about it. As

they stand, he is the master of the

perfectly useless pirouette.

He would do well to watch how

Cantona "paces his innings". Here,

trying to emulate his captain, Giggs

attempted a back heel purely for

effect, and gave the ball away. Great

players do things for a purpose. In

successive weeks, at Leeds and again

on Saturday, when he set up

Poborsky to make the second,

Cantona's tricks have led to goals.

Skilful as he is, Giggs has a brain full

of rocks.

Beckham's brain is sharper and

his striking of the ball cleaner. Much

has been made of this young man

and, now that he occupies the central

position of midfield, he can begin to

fulfil his vast potential. He runs with

the ball unusually well for an English

player and, while his passing is not in

the class of a Hoddle or Brady, it is

good enough to be going on with.

Keane will be back to partner him

next week, after his recovery from

injury and the calf injury that forced

Bush from the field on Saturday. You

cannot play Bush and Keane in the

same midfield, their jobs are too

FOOTBALL

Liverpool savour quality of Berger

Leicester City 0
Liverpool 3

BY DAVID MADDOCK

CRITICS had begun to wonder idly before this game about a Liverpool forward line strangely lacking the appetite of last season. Where is the beef? They need not have bothered, because it was there all right against Leicester City, served up in the form of a Berger.

Patrik Berger, to be precise. The Czech Republic international helped his new club to the top of the FA Carling Premiership with a wonderful display of football's finer arts. Berger was only introduced as a half-time substitute, but he required no more than 45 minutes to destroy the home team with two excellent goals.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, believes his £3.6 million midsummer signing from Borussia Dortmund will ultimately find his calling as an attacking midfield player. Here, he provided the movement and touch in the front line that has been missing so far this season.

"Patrik made a real impact and he has now given me a real headache after just a half because he is pushing so hard

Full results and league tables Page 30

to start," he said. "I brought him on to make a tactical change. I wanted someone coming from deeper and he did everything I asked of him."

Between them, Collymore and Fowler scored 55 goals last season. You would not have guessed it in a first half of which Evans admitted he had become bored with the way his side had wasted so much possession. The lines of communication were not so much down, as ripped to pieces, and even the untutored eye can spot a suggestion of a problem between the pair.

Liverpool passed the ball around well enough in the first half, with a swagger even, after overcoming the distress of almost conceding a goal within 35 seconds of the kick-off. The penetration was lacking to such an extent, though, that Leicester had looked the better, more direct, team.

It was only the second appearance Berger had made for the first team, the first coming also as a second-half substitute last week, but he looked as though he had been there half his life such was his instant rapport with McManaman, in particular, and Fowler.

With his flowing locks and elegant balance, Berger has the look of a thoroughbred. His second goal bore the hallmark of a player with a genuine athletic talent. His

movement then reminded one of George Best, a haunting quality to his running as he ghosted past startled defenders.

It was a fine goal, delivered after 77 minutes to give the scoreline an emphatic look that Liverpool's second-half performance deserved. An intelligent back-heel from Fowler sent Berger gliding over the turf and he waltzed around the challenge of three defenders before drilling the ball into the corner of the net with a ferocious left-foot drive.

By then Leicester were dead and buried, undone by a succession of mistakes that will have to be eradicated quickly if they are to maintain a hold on their precious Premiership status. Two errors cost goals and a third was equally telling. Heskey finding James from point-blank range when the Liverpool goalkeeper's net was a far easier target. That came in the first minute and even then one sensed that the home side would be forced to pay for such profligacy.

Liverpool always appeared the more menacing and, when Berger arrived to give them more of an edge, they assumed control of the game. The Czech immediately had one shot blocked, but when a second chance came along in the 58th minute, he, unlike the Leicester defence, made no mistake.

Watts rashly tried to dribble the ball from defence but was robbed by Berger, who gave the ball to McManaman, made an angle for the return on the left of the penalty box and dispatched his left-foot shot into the near corner with slide-rule precision.

Three minutes later and another mistake cost another goal. Fowler dummied a Bjornebye cross from the left to allow Thomas a shooting opportunity. The 25-yard drive was crisp enough, but Keller should have done better than to allow the ball to squirm under his body.

To Leicester it was a painful lesson. "What hurts most is that they weren't brilliant goals, but gifts from us," Martin O'Neill, the manager, said. "We gave goals away and with Liverpool as a yardstick we have a long way to go."

For Liverpool, the immediate future is brighter. They are top and in Berger have found a forward with the movement to give licence to their intelligent passing play. Collymore may be the one to stand down, with Evans hinting that he has tired of waiting for he and Fowler to recapture their understanding of last season.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — S. Prior (sub: M. Smith), D. Edwards, J. Lomax, S. Walker, S. Grayson, M. Izquierdo, T. Bjornebye, S. Taylor, M. Whittle — S. Glodard, H. Heskey. Subs: J. Barnes, J. James, S. McManaman, S. St. Brieuc. Referee: P. Berger. 48.

Referee: P. Durkin.



Bjornebye, left, the Liverpool defender, steps in to challenge Izett during the defeat of Leicester yesterday

Blackburn waiting for luck to turn in period of readjustment

Newcastle United 2
Blackburn Rovers 1

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

BLACKBURN, now at the bottom, better away than at home, lost at St James' Park on Saturday but were unfortunate that a doubtful penalty should turn the tide against them. One, moreover, which came at the delicate moment just before half-time.

As Newcastle's manager, Kevin Keegan, admitted, Blackburn controlled the game in its earlier stages and, if they had not deserved to win, they at least gave his team a hard run for their money.

It was doubly sad that the penalty should have been given against that indomitable blond Scot, Colin Hendry, a hero until that moment.

Harford said the penalty had his team "going in at half-time with their heads down, rather than up. I spoke to the referee, who I think is an excellent referee. I thought he was a bit quick with it. If there was an element of doubt, it should have gone our way, and there was a good element of doubt. The ball hit the arm rather than the arm hit the ball."

Unsurprisingly, both Keegan and Alan Shearer, the former Blackburn centre forward who put away the penalty, were of the other opinion.



Sutton: reason for hope

Though Keegan said it was the kind of penalty you do not like to give away or, even when you get it, makes you feel sympathy for the other side, he insisted that "ball to hand, must be a penalty." So did Shearer. This put an interesting new gloss on the laws, which clearly state that there must be intent.

Mistakenly, Keegan believed Newcastle should have had another penalty when Flowers, sweeping the ball from Shearer's feet, brought him down when he had done so, following an untypical blunder by Hendry.

Blackburn, for their part, "still seething at half-time," as Harford said, claimed a penalty themselves, early in the second half. Gallacher danced away from the uncertain Sutton down the left to put across

a ball which Howey handled, on the ground. Deliberately? Who knows? In any case, he got away with it.

The decisive second Newcastle goal came after 16 minutes in the second half and, to Harford's disgust, it came from a corner after a dynamic movement in which Givola, Batty and Beardsley set up Lee, whose rocketing drive was turned aside by Flowers. Shearer headed the corner back across goal and Ferdinand turned it in.

Shearer was always a threat. After only six minutes, he forced Flowers to dive to his thundering free kick. Ten minutes later, receiving from the ever lively Beardsley, he hit a sharp angled shot from the right, which gave Flowers further trouble.

By contrast, Blackburn's goal, some eight minutes from the end, was slightly soft. Fenton, a vigorous substitute, booted whenever he was on the ball by a crowd that clearly cannot forgive the way he sunk their team last season, raced through from the left and found Chris Sutton, whose unexpected shot rather surprisingly beat Smicer. Sutton's displays, since his return from long convalescence, have, however, given Harford hope.

Keegan admitted Newcastle had not played well, and had not "passed it well". Their midweek game in the Uefa Cup against Halmstads, though they had won 4-0, had may have been apparent. Indeed, he said, if they had not got Ferdinand and Shearer up front against Blackburn, they might well have lost.

Harford explained that the challenge Blackburn face this season is to carry on after "losing the most expensive forward in the country." Or anywhere else, for that matter.

A week ago, Harford was watching Udinese play Internazionale. It was assumed he was interested in Oliver Bierhoff, the big centre forward who came on as substitute in the Euro 96 final to score Germany's two goals. Harford said, gnomically, that he was simply watching Udinese. We can assume Bierhoff is in his sights.

A very late developer, Bierhoff was expected to go to Juventus in the summer, but did not, and Blackburn can easily afford him, even without another infusion of Jack Walker's money.

Meanwhile, Kevin Keegan threw Blackburn a crumb of comfort. "I see," he said, "that is not having the rub of the green."

NEARLY UNITED (4-4-2): P. Smicer — S. Webster, S. Howey, D. Peacock, B. Beresford — D. Batty, R. Lee (sub: K. Givola), S. Bremner, P. Beardsley (sub: C. Clark, S. Lee), A. Shearer, C. Ferdinand, S. Howey (sub: F. Asprilla, 70).

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — H. Berg, C. Hendry, C. Coleman, J. Keane — G. Donis (sub: S. Redmond, 67), T. Sutton, J. Gallacher, C. Sutton, D. Fenton, S. Lee, S. Howey, S. Crichton — N. Shipperley, M. Lee, T. Walker.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): T. Flowers — J. Edinburgh, C. Coleman, J. Keane — G. Donis (sub: S. Redmond, 67), T. Sutton, J. Gallacher, C. Sutton, D. Fenton, S. Lee, S. Howey, S. Crichton — N. Shipperley, M. Lee, T. Walker.

Referee: K. Burge.

ROSS KINNARD/VALLSPORT
Frustrated Souness refuses to sound alarm bells

Southampton 0
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By MARK HODKINSON

THIS fixture has produced some thrillers in recent years, but as the scoreline suggests, the game on Saturday was not one of them. A repeat of the goalless draw of last season seemed certain until Armstrong scored from a penalty, after his own cross from the right was needlessly handled by Neilson.

"Another frustrating afternoon," Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, said. "A game we did not deserve to lose. It was a crazy goal; two weeks on the trot, we've scored ourselves in the foot. I hope that, over the next seven months, the luck events itself out."

Tottenham had the consolation of a victory. "I'm happy with the three points," Gerry Francis, their manager, said. "Last week we played well and got nothing, but sometimes you need to grind out a few points." In mitigation, Spurs could point to the absence of the injured Sheringham for their headless cockerel performances but they expect to have him back soon, as well as adding to their squad.

New signings are more vital for Southampton, whose shortage of goals has cost them dear. The remedy, according to Souness, has meant extensive scouting trips abroad. "My wife hopes I sign someone. I've been like a travelling salesman over the last few weeks," he said. "I knew it was going to be a hard job, but I'm not worried. I can honestly say that we could easily have been in a situation where we hadn't lost a game yet. If we can retain that attitude and, if sooner rather than later, we can get the right players in, we will be involved in the relegation dogfight."

The only noteworthy incident of the first half came when Paul Atcock, the referee, teased The Dell crowd by running ominously towards Southampton's penalty spot before pointing upfield to indicate a free kick in their favour. It was not until the final stages of the match that Shipperley had any meaningful support in the Southampton attack; too often his nominal partner, who had had to go in search of the ball, leaving him isolated up front.

Le Tisser, himself, looked like a man with a severe migraine, so often did he hold his head in his hands after another pass, run or shot had come to nothing. However, he tried everything he knew before his frustrations boiled over and he appeared to stamp on Edinburgh, earning a yellow card.

Plus points for Souness? "The amount of effort: I can't ask for more in that department." Plus points for paying spectators? Precious few. SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-2): P. Smicer — S. Webster, S. Howey, D. Peacock, B. Beresford — D. Batty, R. Lee (sub: K. Givola, S. Bremner, P. Beardsley (sub: C. Clark, S. Lee), A. Shearer, C. Ferdinand, S. Howey (sub: F. Asprilla, 70)).

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): T. Flowers — H. Berg, C. Hendry, C. Coleman, J. Keane — G. Donis (sub: S. Redmond, 67), T. Sutton, J. Gallacher, C. Sutton, D. Fenton, S. Lee, S. Howey, S. Crichton — N. Shipperley, M. Lee, T. Walker.

Referee: P. Alcock.

Asanovic plots way through the chaos of Sunderland

Derby County 1
Sunderland 0

By MARK HODKINSON

PHILOSOPHER that he is, Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, is a subscriber to the chaos theory. He puts itching powder in his team's boots and asks them to recreate the anarchy of a Moroccan street market on a football pitch.

The consequence, inevitably, is a game choked of flair, thought, ingenuity and expression. Reid's plan almost succeeded at the Baseball Ground but was finally thwarted by an aristocrat, in the shape of Aljosa Asanovic, of Derby County.

The Croat, signed in the close season, brought order to the chaos. He repeatedly saw through the smog of Sunderland's defensive wall and retreated to the halfway line from where he could find space to pass the ball. Asanovic created the game's only goal six minutes before the end and it was an appropriate testimony to a cool, thoughtful brain.

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Before the goal, there had been incidents aplenty, but most had only tenuous links to football. Amid the confusion, accidents or otherwise were inevitable, and David Elleray, the referee, had a job to discern intent from mishap. By the finish, he had booked eight players.

Elleray had no qualms about his decision to send off Richard Ord, the Sunderland defender, for dissent after he had been booked earlier for a petulant tackle. Kevin Ball, Ord's colleague, grumbled, that the dismissal had been unfair. "It is a man's game," he said. "And at the end of the day you should be able to have your say out there. I heard what he said, and I've said worse in front of my missus."

A scrappy game degenerated still further. Sometimes up to three Sunderland players would ambush an opponent before a pass had even arrived. Derby were disconcerted and, Asanovic aside, were barren of ideas to shake off the terrains at their heels.

In the congestion, chances were at a premium and shots had to be launched from outside the penalty area. Asanovic hit the crossbar while Coton saved magnificently from Gabbiadini and also at the feet of Daily.

Afterwards Reid, much like his team, gave barely an inch. Was it a penalty? The referee gave it, didn't he?

DERBY COUNTY (4-3-1-2): R. Hout — J. Lees, G. Rowell, J. Stacic, M. Carbon (sub: A. Ward, 68min) — R. van der Laan (sub: P. Simpson, 60), D. P. Powell — J. Ainsworth, C. McDonald, C. Dyer, S. Crichton — N. Shipperley, M. Lee, T. Walker.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): T. Colón — G. Hall, A. Melville, R. Ord, M. Scott — S. Agnew, C. White, D. Armer, G. Quinn (sub: J. T. Robinson, 72), L. Johnson, J. Lewis, G. C. Dunn (sub: S. Hart, 74), N. Coton (sub: W. McKinney, 67); C. Sutton (sub: R. Fox, 49); S. Quinn (sub: M. Bridges, 74). Referee: D. Elleray.

Power of recall needed to savour brighter days

Crystal Palace 3
Manchester City 1

By OLIVER HOLT

HIS moustache is still as long, his arms seem just as strong, his legs just as spindly as they were in the days Manchester City fans called him "Spider" and watched him score one of the greatest goals in the club's history.

When Paul Power went to collect his press ticket for City's game against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Saturday, though, the receptionist looked at him blankly.

Power was always something of a mock-heroic figure at Maine Road, a pale imitation of a legend, but the smattering of away fans in the temporary offices behind the grandstand hushed as he argued over his ticket. The curling free-kick he scored against Ipswich Town to take his team to the FA Cup Final in 1981 should still count for something, perhaps, but City do not get any free gifts these days.

They cannot even get a manager. George Graham turned them down, Howard Kendall was refused permission to speak to them and Dave Bassett, their latest

Thrifty Fry has to forgo the posh life

Peterborough United 2
York City 2

By PAT GIBSON

TALK about poachers turned gamekeepers. Barry Fry, who has bought and sold more footballers than most of the aforementioned have had rabbit pie dinners, is having to change his ways now that he is playing with his own money.

Fry, having fielded all eight of the players that he signed during the summer at London Road on Saturday, probably felt like jettisoning at least half a dozen of them and popping out to the cash and carry to buy another job lot after his Nationwide League second division side had again surrendered a hard-earned lead.

Fry, though, is the owner of Peterborough United as well as the manager and having to learn about cash-flows, bank charges and all those other little items that can put clubs like his on the road to ruin. He is learning fast. "I have been very critical of chairman and boards of directors in the past," he said, "and I can only apologise and sympathise with them now that I've got the same problems myself."



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SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 1996

PREDICTION

GOALS

Rob Hughes selects George Weah's solo effort for Milan as the finest he has witnessed

A goal fit to set before the football gods



No man, they claim, is an island, no team player can ever function alone, particularly not the goalscorer, who needs to be set up with his opportunities. September 8, 1996, the first day of the new Italian Serie A season, contradicted those life-long maxims.

In the 87th minute of the match between AC Milan and Verona, George Oppong Weah transcended any solo goal in the imagination. He defended a Verona corner, he ran 85 metres, he outpaced, out-thought, outclassed seven gentlemen of Verona, and within 14 seconds, 30 strides and 14 touches of the ball, he scored.

"It was a goal for Italy, for Africa, for Milan," Weah said, somewhat impiously, in the calm of the San Siro dressing-room.

This athlete — and the goal demonstrated athleticism to the full — came out of Liberia to northern Italy, via the South of France, to demonstrate the continuing thrill to the world of the relatively uncoached African player: the skills of men not yet suppressed either by coaching or by the limitations we place on what can and cannot be done with a football, with the feet, with the fantasy within the mind.

The Italian media, and their galaxy of former players who revere goals above everything else, can remember only two individual goals even remotely on a par: the second goal of England's World Cup game against Argentina in Mexico City in 1966, scored, of course, by Maradona, and — beyond my recollection, but fresh to Italians — a goal by "Gigi" Riva against East Germany in Naples in 1969.

"Almost" is the relevant word, for among those paying tributes throughout the past week was Riva himself. "I have seen nothing to surpass that," he said. "What Weah did over 85 metres, his strength and the cleanliness with which he shot, cannot be beaten."

So let us analyse those 14 seconds. The first touch came with Milan defending a precarious 2-1 lead. Verona had shown resilient courage, had forced Milan back for a corner



Weah claims his goal against Verona, scored after running almost the length of the field. Photograph: Carlo Fumagalli

deep into the time when cramp and fatigue were setting in. From that corner, overrun beyond the far post, Weah cushioned the ball with the outside of his right foot. He was level with his own penalty spot and, in the same moment that he made contact with the ball, he began his long, powerful, uninhibited strides.

The yellow shirts in pursuit seemed to drop off him like beads of sweat. In our diagram, look particularly at the Verona No 2, the right back, Caverzan. He doggedly pursues Weah the entire 85 metres, except that he never gets within a yard of his target.

Those who watched the match know that Weah had

himself before, without particular venom but with laser-like precision, and with the instep of his right boot, he dispatched the ball where, all along, something inside him seemed to indicate that it would nestle inside the far post.

During the week that followed, Italy simply marvelled. Here was a country in dispute because a young woman of black skin had won a beauty contest in the south. Here was a country, with football in its

The goal did not involve a pass; no one was on his wavelength'

worked tirelessly for his team but if all you saw in isolation was this long sprint, you would not credit that.

One more defender dared to impose himself, or try to, on Weah's path. Corini, stood plumb in front of the Liberian. Weah flicked the ball tantalisingly close to the right of Corini, and slipped his own body to the left. Corini looked bemused and, anyway, Weah was gone.

Now, two strides inside the penalty area, he allowed Gregori, the goalkeeper, to commit

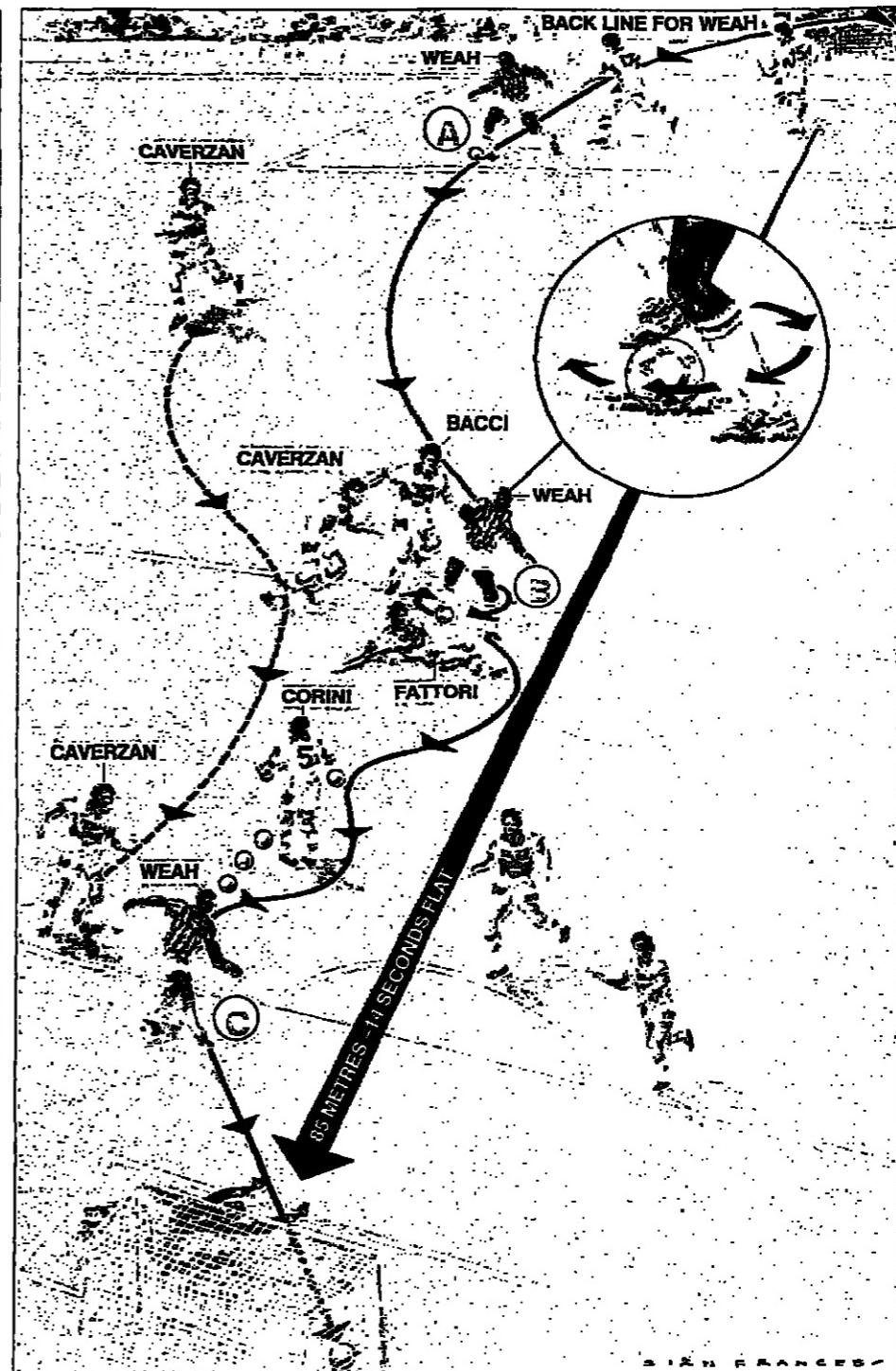
blood, utterly colour blind to the man of the hour. They wondered how he could move so intricately and so fast.

The answer came from Arsène Wenger, the would-be Arsenal coach, who, from his home in Japan, explained that when he coached the young Weah at AS Monaco, he could complete 100 metres in 11.5sec. He was challenged, even at that pace, by Fofana, from the Ivory Coast, and Klinsmann, from Germany.

Speak to Weah, and he talks to you of God. He has changed

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A couple of seasons ago, playing for PSV Eindhoven against Milan, Romario toyed with arguably the most experienced defender in the world, Franco Baresi.

Weah not only took out

three-quarters of the opposition,

but he also effectively

ignored the entire complement of Milan.

He used no other

part of his anatomy to control or guide the ball other than his feet and he did not finish with an arrogant flourish; indeed, with no more panache than was necessary.

The trickery of Romario: the cold-blooded rifle crack that hallmark the finishing of

Marco van Basten, the great

slaloms of Maradona... the

sheer accumulation of goals

from Pelé. He, the king of all

players, the scorer of 1,257

goals in 1,313 first-class games,

has tried to answer questions

about what occurs in the mind

of a man when he scores such memorable and beautiful goals. Pelé, as involved in the game now as when he emerged as a genius at 17, has never come up with an answer.

Weah flicked the ball into the air with his left foot, over his own shoulder and over Baresi. He then ran around him, caught the ball on the right thigh and, without noticeably glancing towards the goal, fired back over his head into the net.

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CRICKET: CAPTAIN AT THE CREASE AS SURREY SECURE FIRST TITLE FOR 14 YEARS

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF (Surrey won toss):
Surrey (4pts) beat Glamorgan by seven wickets

IT HAS long been said of Surrey that they have no stomach for winning under pressure. It has also been said they possess such talent that one trophy would be enough to transform them. Yesterday, in the style of a side ready to justify the praise, they won the Sunday League for the first time by overwhelming Glamorgan at Cardiff.

Their first honour for 14 years, and a £40,000 prize from AXA Equity & Law, was never in serious doubt on an afternoon of blustery, heady expectation and negligible drama. Glamorgan are a club with expansive plans for team



Stewart salutes the comfortable seven-wicket victory over Glamorgan yesterday which ensured top place in the AXA Equity & Law League

(Last season's positions in brackets)

and ground but the flag-end of the Sunday season is no time to see a mid-table side at their sharpest.

Surrey won as they pleased, with 7.1 overs in hand, and if the game itself was anticlimactic the occasion and achievement were not. Many may deride Sunday cricket, indeed deplore its impact on technical standards, but while it remains one of four domestic competitions no county can ignore it, least of all a county desperate for any kind of honour.

Last September it was Kent who took the Sunday title and heaved profound sighs of relief. It was their first trophy for 17 years and some of their followers were even prepared to forgive them for finishing bottom of the championship.

Things are different for Surrey, today they resume their quest for the four-day title and who is to say that this lifting of tension will not be all they require to win that, too?

If much credit for this ground-breaking win goes to Dave Gilbert, Surrey's innovative coach, there will be widespread pleasure for certain of their loyal players, for whom this represents the end of a long, lean career. Even the captain, Alec Stewart, for all his decorations by England, has regularly and ruefully complained that he has never been part of a team winning anything significant.

Stewart, limning, was at the crease when the league was

won. He threw both arms aloft and sprinted through the invading crowd to a pavilion containing his father Micky, a former Surrey captain. "It's been a long time coming," said Stewart Jr, "but it's worth the wait. This game is getting more like football — you need a squad of 16 or 17 players for strength in depth, and all of ours have contributed."

After beating Warwickshire with ball to spare, and Northamptonshire off the final ball, Surrey came to Wales knowing that victory would shake off the persistent challenge of Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, who were playing each other at Scarborough.

There was hardly a moment

when their nerve was tested. Even on a torpid pitch, Glamorgan's 159 for nine was wretchedly inadequate. Very few teams can contain Surrey's batsmen to less than four runs an over and Glamorgan did not come close.

Otis Gibson, whose response to finding Wagarr Younis had taken his job was

to announce he did not feel like playing the championship fixture, did agree to take the field yesterday, but to little effect.

His few languid overs included a high, wide full toss to Brown which was called no-ball, flew for four byes and cost his side six.

Surrey had chosen to field and they did so tenaciously,

Diving stops were commonplace, some of them breathtaking, and there was a discipline to their bowlers that has not always been evident. Dale Maynard lost patience against Bicknell and Hemp, striking the ball cleanly, was sent back by James and run out by a 25-yard direct hit from Julian.

Quite why Matthew Maynard chose to bat as low as No 6 remains a mystery but from 47 for three his team needed some rescuing. James and Cottee shared a stand of 49 in ten overs but Pearson, the one specialist spin bowler in Surrey's armoury, now took a decisive hand. He bowled James round his legs as he aimed a frustrated sweep,

then cleverly adjusted his length against the advancing Maynard to take an easy return catch.

Croft's straight six into the River Taff offered lonely defiance before he became Adam Hollioake's 39th victim of the Sunday season, easily a record. It then said everything necessary about the authority of this performance that Hollioake was not required to bat. Indeed, while the openers were putting on 82 in 12 overs, it seemed Surrey would need nobody else at all. Croft and Barwick restored a semblance of order but Stewart and Thorpe bedded in quietly before settling the issue with dismissive speed.

Thorpe had chosen to field and they did so tenaciously,

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to announce he did not feel like playing the championship fixture, did agree to take the field yesterday, but to little effect.

His few languid overs included a high, wide full toss to Brown which was called no-ball, flew for four byes and cost his side six.

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Derbyshire first to stumble in dash to winning post

One title dream died on Saturday, three more could revert to the harsh reality of mathematics by tonight. With Derbyshire now out of the equation, serious threats to Leicestershire being crowned as Britain's Assured county champions next weekend depend upon Surrey and Essex, who both have considerable victory assignments today.

As calculators and crystal balls are not available to all, a précis of probabilities follows. Leicestershire, with 272 points banked and a home fixture against Middlesex to come on Thursday, will need no more than a draw and maximum bonus points if neither Surrey nor Essex win their titanic, penultimate games.

If Surrey win in Cardiff today, however, they will be back within one point of the leaders, with Worcestershire as their last opponents at the Oval. Victory for Essex, who

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

face a daunting run chase against Sussex, would take them to 265 points, the title still possible if they then beat Glamorgan at Chelmsford.

One further, fanciful possibility exists. Kent are well

placed to beat Hampshire at Canterbury today, a result that would raise them to 257 points and, if other contenders fail, second place. They would then go to Bristol on Thursday knowing that they could still be champions if they win and Leicestershire lose.

For those who prefer certainty to conjecture, Derbyshire's romantic challenge is over. The unlikeliest of all the contenders were eliminated with unemotional professionalism by the team they strove to replace, Warwickshire. About to be stripped of their title, though plainly not their pride, Warwickshire rallied from 84 for five to meet a victory target of 267.

Trevor Penny, ever a man for the lost cause, supervised the recovery with 83 not out and there was a fourth championship half-century this season from England's latest spin bowling hope, Ashley Giles. For Derbyshire, with Dominic

Cork injured and Devon Malcolm malfunctioning, it proved a reverse that was hard to take. "We couldn't throw our punches," their inspirational captain, Dean Jones, said. "But at least we have shown we are becoming champions."

Indeed they have, and in that they are not alone. This summer is best judged not by Durham, whose self-esteem is so shattered they must expect to lose before each game begins. Better to gauge the championship cricket by the increased number of games running their course, either for positive results in the last few hours or for that recently defunct alternative, the draw.

If the overdue introduction of four-day games has succeeded, as even former opponents now concede, in producing tougher cricket, the three points available for a draw this season have been an important adjunct. The top

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	L	D	S	B	PP
Leics (7)	15	10	5	0	58	60	256
Surrey (12)	15	8	1	6	59	60	256
Essex (5)	15	8	3	4	54	55	249
Warwickshire (14)	15	8	3	3	54	54	241
Nottinghamshire (8)	15	7	4	4	54	54	241
Yorkshire (9)	16	8	5	3	46	54	237

Points include bonus points and match drawn as a win for each side.

REMAINING FIXTURES (all Sept 19)

Leicestershire v Middlesex (Leicester)

Surrey v Worcestershire (Oval) Essex v

Durham (Dorb), Kent v Gloucestershire (Brassey), Yorkshire v Northamptonshire (Northampton)

A draw, however, is of no earthly use to Kent today, for it would end their lingering chance of the title. They have set Hampshire to make 299 to 94 for three with victory hopes rising fast, but an unbroken stand of 124 between Steve James and Anthony Coney has ensured a tense final day on which a draw would leave Surrey 14 points off the pace.

In practice, as the small print reveals, "all matters of significant cricketing and financial importance to the first-class game" will need referring to a different body known cryptically as FCF. This turns out to be a First-Class Forum, consisting of two delegates from each of the 18 counties — in other words, the present constitution of the Test and County Cricket Board by another name.

The counties have therefore won the continued right to exercise their requirements and prejudices, if necessary against the interest of the national game. Anyone deluded enough to expect a bold new world under the new authority must think again. County cricket will stay in its present, overcrowded form for as long as the clubs desire.

next year will be run by a management board, 16 strong and blessed with the size and scope to make swift decisions.

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CRICKET: WELLS DETERMINED TO TAKE LEAD ROLE AS COUNTY LOOKS TO REGROUP

Sussex happy to turn backs on a summer of turmoil

By IVO TENNANT

THIS has not been a harmonious year for Sussex, afflicted as they have been by a failed drugs test, reported disaffection within the side towards the captain, speculation over the future of their England leg spinner and, not least, the discord that arises from a conspicuous lack of success in all forms of the game. The dressing-room at Hove was once renowned for its forbearance; now, its occupants cannot always tolerate each other.

Few cricketers are more resilient than Alan Wells, who is having to cope with his season's as well as the captaincy, which he has held since 1992 and is fully intent on retaining. A prolific run-scorer in county cricket, he did not play for England until last summer — and then was out first ball.

"To go from a Test debut one year to turning out for the old codgers in the Masters the next year must be some kind of record," Wells said as his county tried to prevent a fifth successive championship defeat at Chelmsford.

"If I felt that anybody else could do a better job, then I would step down."

"If I was looking over my shoulder all the time, I would not be able to concentrate properly. But I am more suited to being captain than anybody in the present side. We have had a bad run but we could easily have won three or four more championship matches. The four-day game is unforgiving."

According to Nigel Bent, the Sussex secretary, Wells has the backing of the club's committee, although a decision over his retention as captain might not be made until the spring. "If I believed all the rumours I hear, nobody would be playing for us next season," Bent said.

OVERRIDING all other events has been the ban — and subsequent dismissal — imposed on Ed Giddins, for drug-taking that was not performance-enhancing. The

need for discipline within any sports organisation is paramount, but then the pop group Oasis, who are supposedly the icons of the age and who have a considerably wider and more impressionable audience, have openly admitted taking drugs. And at least Giddins did not expectorate when Hove was his stage.

Nor, it should be stressed, was he the first Sussex player to indulge in this manner. Anzilian joints were the favoured noxious substance of one of their former cricketers.

Giddins failed his drugs-test at Tunbridge Wells, of all places, at the end of May. The ensuing speculation as to the identity of the player, coupled with the Test and County Cricket Board's refusal to confirm his name even when it was freely and accurately discussed in the media, hardly unified the side.

There are colleagues who thought his punishment harsh and others who are contemplating their own futures, regardless of his summary dismissal. Danny Law, another promising fast bowler, is one.

Durham, whose batting needs bolstering, have a regard for the talents of Martin Speight, not least, perhaps, because he was at university there. He is, though, expected to stay with Sussex. There is considerable conjecture over the future of Ian Salisbury, to whom Sussex have offered a five-year contract in an attempt to prevent him moving to Surrey, or, indeed, any other county.

Salisbury was omitted from both England tour parties and intends spending the winter away from the game. "I am 26 now and so have a big decision to make over my future, and I will take a long time thinking everything over," he said.

"But I get on OK with Alan Wells and have not even spoken to Surrey."

"I reckon all this speculation

arose because during Guildford week I had a drink with Tony Pigott, who I used to live with before he moved to the Oval."

Wells believes that if Sussex can strengthen their batting, then Salisbury, who is out of contract at the end of the season, can be persuaded to stay. "We are looking at which players around the country are not being retained and which batsmen

will be wanting to move counties, but there is no point in going for a 37 or 38-year-old such as Neil Taylor," he said. "It is important to look to the future."

"This speculation about Ian, Martin Speight and Ed Giddins not getting on with me can be summed up in one word: rubbish. We have spoken about this in a team meeting. At times I have been

criticised for being too pig-headed, but I have been less strong-willed this year. I have been more concerned with listening to comment from the junior as well as the senior players."

"I still have ambitions for the side, have two more years on my contract and obviously would like to carry on being captain. I am learning all the time."

Just a few days into the new season and already it looks like the lads are going to need help. They'll need a leader with vision. Someone who knows who to buy, who to sell, who to play and who to drop, who can change their current system, formation and that garish new strip.

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RUGBY UNION: HARLEQUINS AND WASPS MAINTAIN UNBEATEN RUN IN COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP



Carling, the Harlequins centre, leaves tacklers clutching at air as he bursts through during the comprehensive victory over London Irish at the Stoop Memorial Ground

New-found wealth buys capital show

Harlequins 66
London Irish 7By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MONEY talks, and nowhere louder than in London. The commercial attractions of the capital are famed the world over and it is no surprise to find that five of English rugby union's newly-capitalised clubs are based there, nor that two of them — Harlequins and Wasps — now look down on the rest from the lofty unbeaten heights of the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

How long this enviable state of affairs will last is another matter. Detractors of the multi-national XV will argue that Harlequins, who have averaged 60 points a match, have yet to meet substantial opposition, yet the longer their run is sustained, the greater the confidence with which they will approach their December games against the pride of the provinces, Bath and Leicester.

No one yet knows the optimum teams of Harlequins, Bath, Wasps — those whose money has bought strength in depth. When they

forge into Europe next month, then we will know, or should know, were it not for the uncertainty surrounding the Heineken Cup; the English clubs have yet to sign the participation agreement and there are growing fears that the broadcasting and commercial structure underpinning the competition could be removed.

The only certainty the English game has at the moment is the vastly-enhanced club product on display: London Irish demonstrated as much by beating Northampton a week earlier only to arrive at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Saturday for a ritual humiliation made worse by the fact that four of their own were largely responsible: Michael Corcoran scored three tries, Rory Jenkins and Jim Staples a brace each. All three have appeared in the Exiles' colours while Keith Wood, who also scored two tries, seeks to re-establish his international career with Ireland.

Wood has suffered a mortifying hiatus since playing against Japan in the World Cup 16 months ago. A shoulder injury kept him out of action with Garryowen last season but now he is back near his rumbustious best; he

Huw Harries, who was making his Harlequins debut at scrum half. What with the Llewellyn brothers in harness for the first time since leaving Neath and Gary Connolly bringing his skills from rugby league, it was almost too much for a capacity crowd of 4,750 to savour.

It was certainly too much for the Irish. "It was a salutary lesson," Roger McGehee, their chairman of selectors, said. "Harlequins played the kind of rugby we want to play but it showed us which of our

team have the character to keep playing in such adverse circumstances. Now we have to make sure the confidence we gained in beating Northampton doesn't drain away but if we are first division, then Harlequins are surely premiership material."

All too frequently in the second half, the game resembled a training exercise for Harlequins as they scored 46 points without reply and allowed Connolly to find his feet in rugby union. Shepherded here and there by Will Carling, the Wigan centre's skills on the ball and his application were beyond criticism, though Richard Best, the Harlequins director of rugby, will not agree. "He gave away seven points and made 21, so he's in credit — for the moment," Best said, referring to the defensive error that gave flood the Irish try.

Best knows that other sides will not concede possession so easily as the Irish, whose playmaker, David Humphreys, probably should not have started a game he failed to finish because of an ankle injury. Yet the movement of the ball by Harlequins was impressive. Though there are not that many of them, it was a pleasure to see English play-

ers making the ball work rather than allowing the physical confrontations to dominate. For that, players such as Laurent Cabannes are partially responsible.

If Corcoran and Carling had managed more than four conversions between them, the slaughter would have been complete. Running on to the ball from deep, the Harlequins forwards dominated the first half; the second half saw Jenkins in full flight and incisive finishing against an increasingly-wobbly defence. When Challinor left with an ankle injury Harlequins could even give Carling a free kick at stand-off half, the position he now seeks to make his own, though judgment on that experiment must be deferred to a more demanding day.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: Corcoran (2), Jenkins (2), Staples (2). O'Brien, Green, Conroy, Sorensen, Cawdron. Penalties: goalkick: Corcoran. London Irish: Try: Flood. Conversion: Humphreys. **LINE-OUTS:** Jenkins, J. Staples, D. O'Leary, G. Connolly, W. Carling, M. Corcoran, P. Challinor, H. Harries, I. Llewellyn, K. Wood, R. Jenkins, Glyn Davies, G. Green, G. Sorensen, C. Cawdron, D. Carlin, Challinor replaced by P. Merrell (58min). Wood replaced by H. Brown (77). **LONDON IRISH:** Tries: N. Woods, P. Williams, P. Price, J. Staples, D. Humphreys, T. Broughton, J. Moore, M. O'Kelly, N. Redmond, V. Costello. Costello replaced by B. Wood (40). Humphreys replaced by B. Burns (58). Referee: B. Campsall (Yorkshire).

ers to do emerge from their subterranean world, the outcome is invariably fumbling and inept. The midfield was again lamentable.

It was remarkable that Greenwood and Potter got tries, since they dropped just about everything. Orrell were crushed up front, yet all the artistry, adventure and movement stemmed from them. Unlike Leicester, they have backs to make the spirits soar. They attacked from deep for the simple reason that their pack got them nowhere near the visitors' line.

Hitchmough is one of the most exciting young talents around, the muscular Naylor is back to his best on the right wing. Tuigamala gets better in the centre with every game, and, inside him, Lyon continues to adapt well from rugby league.

JOHN LILEY: reliable boot Botica tapped to himself, Lyon and Tuigamala tore up the middle and Naylor supplied the exquisite finishing touch. Skilful handling produced another fine try by Saveri-mutto in the second half. It was remarkable that Greenwood and Potter got tries, since they dropped just about everything. Orrell were crushed up front, yet all the artistry, adventure and movement stemmed from them. Unlike Leicester, they have backs to make the spirits soar. They attacked from deep for the simple reason that their pack got them nowhere near the visitors' line.

SCORERS: Orrell: Tries: Naylor, Saveri-mutto. Conversion: Botica. Leicester: Tries: Greenwood, Potter, Hitchmough. Conversion: J. Lyon. Penalty goals: J. Lyon (4). **OFFICERS:** R. Hitchmough, J. Naylor, L. Tuigamala, D. Lyon, N. Hislop, F. Botica, S. Codic, J. Connor, M. Scott, S. Turner, J. Hudson, C. Cusack, P. Rees, P. Angeles, A. Maitland, G. Jones, R. Beal, R. Garforth, J. Wells, M. Johnson, R. Field, L. Moody, D. Richards. Referee: C. White (Gloucestershire)



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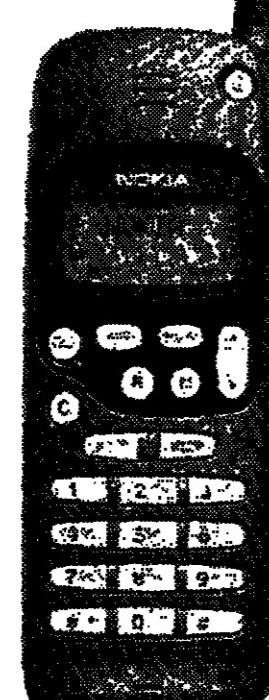
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ATHLETICS: DRAMATIC FINISH SEES SCOTTISH RUNNER WIN GREAT NORTH RUN

McColgan rewarded for victory charge

BY JOHN GOODBODY

LIZ McCOLGAN has produced many epic performances during her career. Over 10,000 metres, there was her 1988 Olympic silver medal and her 1991 world title. In the big city marathons, she has triumphed in New York and London.

However, in few of her runs has she shown such courage as at the Bupa Great North run on Tyneside yesterday, when she cut down a 50 yard lead over the last mile of the half-marathon distance of 13.1 miles to beat Esther Kiplagat, of Kenya.

As the pair sped along the seafront, in the sunshine of South Shields, McColgan seemed doomed to endure another defeat after the disappointment of the Atlanta Olympics when she suffered an insect bite, an infected ankle and finished sixteenth in the marathon.

However, the Scot roused herself in her familiar style, head bent slightly forward, eyes concentrated on the back of the Kenyan who had drifted away from here and Yvonne Murray at eight miles.

Gradually, as the pair ran parallel to the North Sea towards the finish, McColgan closed the gap. However, there were still 20 yards between them with a quarter of a mile to go. Kiplagat, realising from the cheers of the crowd that she was being caught, tried to accelerate, but her legs began to wobble and McColgan swept past her with a 100

yards left, to win in 70min 21sec with the Kenyan eight seconds further back.

McColgan said: "The crowd lifted me but I did not know when I was going to catch her. I just put my head down and, over the last mile, I felt I was sprinting, sprinting all the time."

"Nothing will make up for the disappointment of Atlanta. However I decided that when the infection cleared up I would get training again and do some racing which is what I like."

Murray, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, who has been injured almost all season, finished fourth in 72min 25sec. She said that she felt fine until eight miles when, coming away from a feeding station, both her calves began to suffer from cramp.

The men's race was not quite so dramatic, although Paul Evans threatened to make it so for a few minutes. Along the seafront, he launched an attack on Benson Masya, the Kenyan, who had won the race three times previously and yesterday established a 100-yard lead with a mile to go.

Unlike Kiplagat, Masya had judged his pace perfectly and maintained his controlled style to finish well ahead of Paul Evans, who was third in the London marathon last April. Masya's winning time was 61min 43sec while Evans finished in 61min 55sec.



McColgan salutes the crowd as she crosses the line in South Shields yesterday

MOTORCYCLING: SEE-SAW STRUGGLE IN CATALONIA GRAND PRIX GOES WAY OF AUSTRALIAN MASTER

Doohan basks in acclaim for third world title

MICHAEL DOOHAN, from Australia, took his third consecutive 500cc world championship by finishing second behind Carlos Checa, of Spain, in the Catalonia Grand Prix in Montmelo yesterday. "It's unbelievable," at the beginning of the year I just didn't think this was possible," Doohan said.

For Checa, a local man, it was the first win of a promising career and some compensation after falling when he was leading the race last year. He

received the race trophy from King Juan Carlos of Spain, who is a keen motorcycle enthusiast.

Doohan said that Checa's move had helped him. "Checa took the lead and that was good — it took the pressure off, meaning I could finish lower down," he said.

Doohan, who had only needed to finish second to secure the title, fulfilled his pre-race promise of sticking to Alex Criville, who began the day

as the only rider who could catch him in the championship.

Luca Cadalora, of Italy, was first away from the starting grid, but was unable to contain Checa, who took the lead on the third lap and never looked back. Behind him, Criville and Doohan, on Hondas, were involved in a battle that saw them exchange places nine times.

Although Doohan could have allowed Criville to take second and

himself finish fourth, he pulled out the stops and finished 0.049sec in front. It was a fitting climax to a season dominated by the rivalry — and occasional conflict — between them.

With two races remaining, Criville's performance guaranteed him second place in the championship, the best position recorded by a Spaniard. "It would have been nice to win at home, but Checa went really well," Criville said.

MOTOR RALLYING: FLYING FINN LEAVES CHASING PACK STUCK IN THE MUD

Makinen speeds towards first championship

TOMMI MAKINEN, of Finland, moved closer to being crowned world champion after mastering atrocious conditions to build a comfortable lead on the second day of the Rally of Australia yesterday.

After heavy rain in the seventh round of the championship, organisers had to cancel two stages when four of the first six cars were stranded at a river crossing.

Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, one of only two drivers with a mathematical chance of depriving Makinen of the title, forced his Subaru into second place ahead of the Ford of Carlos Sainz. That was despite stopping in the river on the fourteenth stage, then running into electrical trouble that stalled his car with smoke billowing out of a hole in the afternoon.

"I don't understand why the others aren't faster," Makinen said, after opening up a lead of 1min 22sec. "I was driving quite safely, smoothly and quickly."

A measurement of each

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SAILING

Todd turns tide with unexpected victory

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN CHERBOURG

TONY TODD's Dubois 50, *Eagle*, which won the Round the Island Race this year and took Class 1 and overall CHS honours in the 1993 Fastnet, finished off the Royal Ocean Racing Club season with a convincing Channel Handicap win in the Solent to Cherbourg Race this weekend.

Eagle was second across the finishing line in the outer harbour here early on Saturday, behind Johnnie Caulcutt's old Whitbread maxi *Maxima*, followed by Richard Balding's elegant *Swan 59*, *Dark Swan*, and Derek Waiter's First 42s, *Poinote North*.

Despite carrying the fading north-north easterly breeze all the way to the finish, Caulcutt was demoted to fourth on corrected time, with *Dark Swan* second and *Poinote North* third. For Todd it was a particularly happy and unexpected win, coming at the beginning of his stag weekend and following some probably unprintable celebrations organised for him on board *Eagle* before the fleet left the Squadron line on Friday night.

Results 37

"This was the stag weekend. We didn't expect a victory but we'll take it like men," Nigel Musto, who was among the crew, said. Like all the other boats in the 33-strong fleet, the team on *Eagle* had found the flagging breeze frustrating. It started north-north west as the yachts headed out towards the forts with the sun setting behind them, but then swung more north-easterly once they were offshore and spinnakers reaching across the Channel.

"It was just on the edge," Musto said. "Sometimes it would go, sometimes it wouldn't. Another few knots of breeze would have been a real blast. But it was easy calls all the way through." After sailing under clear skies with a marvellous starscape, complete with shooting stars and satellite traces, the trickiest part of the race was the entrance into Cherbourg itself.

Apart from the earliest finishers, the bulk of the fleet found themselves approaching the Fort De L'Ouest at sunrise with a strong east-going tide running and the breeze diminishing, just when

the weight limits have been increased from 6½ stone and 8½ stone this year because prep school boys have increased in size since the tournament began in 1990. Its popularity has demonstrated that it fulfils a definite need.

Ray Milner, the assistant secretary to the English Schools' Rugby Football

Union, said that some prep schools have expressed concern when their boys come up against "monsters".

"You can occasionally get an older boy who is very strong and mature and he could cause damage," he said. "We are very conscious of the need for safety."

The exceptionally mature boy can also be detrimental to the team ethos — what Milner terms the "give-it-to-Joe attitude of the rest of the side".

"When boys get older, many of the bigger ones stop growing so fast," he said. "It is at prep schools that the prob-

lem seems to occur, and we are looking at weight categories with interest."

John Elder, the headmaster and master in charge of rugby at Beeston Hall, near Cromer, said: "It is important that boys feel confident about playing the game; confidence means so much. There are, therefore, no excuses in a tournament like this that you are playing against giants."

He believes that staging a sevens competition on the dry pitches of September is more valuable for teaching the game than if it were held in the mud of late winter.

"The whole idea of rugby is to handle the ball," he said. "It also helps schools to look at their potential before they start the 15-a-side game."

Since Beeston have lost

only three first XV fixtures in the past two seasons and yesterday beat Edinburgh Academy 24-0 in the under 9s' under-13 final, it is clearly a project that works.

One Beeston Hall boy who was unable to play yesterday was Andrew Robertson. He is

only 12, but weighs 9½ stone. He was not annoyed. "The rules are good, it gives more boys the opportunity to play rugby," he said.

Austin Jessop, a referee yesterday and the master in charge of rugby at The Leys, in Cambridge, makes the point that, in adult rugby, a 12 stone scrum half, as he was, would still be two-thirds of the body weight of an 18 stone prop forward. However, in schoolboy rugby, a 5 stone scrum half would be only half the weight of a 10 stone forward. "You can get one very large boy who will skew the whole game," he said.

Campbell Patterson, the headmaster of Edinburgh Academy, said: "The safety aspect is critical, but, in addition, of all the sevens tournaments in which we play, this is the one where the purest rugby takes place. People come down from Scotland for this event for that reason and because it is such a friendly competition."

Results, page 37



Gianni Bugno, of the MG team, leads briefly during the Tour of Spain. Nicola Minoli, of Italy, won the ninth stage from Jerez to Cordoba yesterday while his countryman, Fabio Baldato, retained his overall lead. Results, page 37

Boys schooled in weighting game

By JOHN GOODBODY

WEIGHT categories are commonplace in so many sports that it is curious that they have been tried so rarely in rugby union. For young boys learning the game, it seems sensible to organise tournaments in which youngsters are divided not only by age but also by weight.

Beeston Hall Prep School, in Norfolk, yesterday staged just such a seven-a-side event, the success of which can be judged from the fact that the 28 competing schools came from as far away as Scotland. Boys were split into two categories under 7s and under 11s, and under 9s and under 13s.

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SPORT IN SCHOOLS

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Results, page 37

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday (6.00) ...

Vaughn Conference Kidderminster v Stevenage (7.45)

UNIONWIDE LEAGUE First division: Ashton v Accrington (1.45); ...

ANOH INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Cheltenham v Cardiff (at Kingstons) FC, 7.00; Queens Park Rangers v Crystal Palace, 1.45; Nottingham Forest v Birmingham, 7.45; Sheffield Wednesday v Oxford (7.45); ...

SERVICES TOWER: Birmingham (7.45) ...

PONTINS LEAGUE: Morecambe v Blackpool (7.45); ...

SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth division: Rangers v Hibernian (7.45) ...

CAPITAL LEAGUE: Welling v Cambridge United (7.30) ...

CRICKET Britannic Assurance county championship 10.30, final day of four: 10 over minimum

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Sussex

CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Surrey

CANTERBURY: Kent v Hampshire

UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Somerset

LANCASHIRE: Northamptonshire v Lancashire

WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP first day of three: Belvoir Meadow: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire; ...

THAMES: Gloucester v Hereford; ...

SOMERSET v Yorkshire; ...

WORCESTERSHIRE: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Cystec v Farnham (7.30); ...

RUGBY: Buxton (7.45); ...

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Hull v Bradford (7.45); Long Eaton v Bradford (7.30); Pool v Sheffield (7.30)

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (Birkenhead) ...

RUGBY UNION

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four): ...

WEST COUNTRY: Bristol v Gloucester (7.45); ...

WILTS & GLOUCS: Gloucester v Bristol (7.45); ...

WORCESTERSHIRE: Worcester v Shrewsbury (7.45); ...

OTHER SPORT

BOWLING: British League: ...

BOXING: British Boxing Board of Control (B.B.C.): ...

CRICKET: Birmingham (7.45); ...

FOOTBALL: ...

GOLF: ...

HORSE RACING: ...

NETBALL: ...

SWIMMING: ...

TABLE TENNIS: ...

TRIATHLON: ...

WATER POLO: ...

WRESTLING: ...

YACHTING: ...

WEDNESDAY FOOTBALL

COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, first leg: Barnet v West Ham (7.45); Blackpool v Chelsea (7.45); Bristol City v Bolton (7.45); Coventry v Birmingham (7.45); Everton v Liverpool (7.45); ...

McLEOD'S LEAGUE: ...

REDFERNS: ...

ROTHMANS: ...

SHOOTING: ...

SILVERSTONE: ...

SOCIAL: ...

SPRINGFIELD: ...

STYLING: ...

SWEDEN: ...

SWIMMING: ...

TABLE TENNIS: ...

TRIATHLON: ...

WATER POLO: ...

WRESTLING: ...

YACHTING: ...

ZEBRAS: ...

ZEST: ...

SATURDAY FOOTBALL

KICK-OFF 3.00

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Manchester Utd; Blackburn v Everton; Leeds Utd; Liverpool v Arsenal; ...

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: Fleetwood Town v Hartlepool United; ...

FOOTBALL LEAGUE: ...

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FOOTBALL: ...

Rebecca Stephens knows how to climb but needed canoeing, riding and biking for a real challenge



Sir Randolph Fiennes relaxes after a hard climb

You could almost call it enjoying yourself

I am no racer. I never have been. So when I found myself among a large crowd about to launch itself into a 330-mile orienteering race across the wilds of Canada's Pacific Range mountains, at first I wondered what I was doing there.

The skills expected of competitors in this so-called Eco-Challenge — a sort of adventure race — included canoeing, white-water rafting, riding, mountaineering and mountain-biking. Now admittedly, I have climbed Everest, but until a couple of months ago I had neither canoed nor ridden my bike outside Fulham. I had ridden horses as a child but not enthusiastically. During the previous fortnight I had been lucky enough to find a superb riding instructor and been given a few lessons. White-water rafting I would have to leave to chance.

I felt as if I was entering exams without having done my homework, and on arrival at Whistler Resort in British Columbia I felt worse. This was North America and the majority of the 75 mixed-sex teams of five were American. Their collective confidence and sea of tanned, muscled legs disturbed me deeply. What's more, this was televised sport for the US Discovery Channel. The Americans cheered, chanted and booted the air in unison on command. We Brits just stood agape.

I had been invited to take part by Dr Mike Stroud, the polar explorer, who had competed in last year's Eco-Challenge in Utah. Ours was an interesting team. As well as Mike's polar partner Sir Randolph Fiennes and old Karrimor mountain-running chum Dr David Smith, Mike had taken the unprecedented step of inviting his 70-year-old dad Vic, a retired industrial chemist, as a sort of "thank you" for introducing him to the hills when he was a boy. His reasoning was that if Helen Klein, a 72-year-old American woman, could complete the course last year (which she did), then there was no reason why Stroud senior should not do the same.

The first leg was "ride and run". We had two horses between the five of us for a distance of 22 miles along the bank of the Lillooet River. If the night before I had wincing at the enforced joviality of such an event, now I was revelling in it. At the start line were 150 horses and 225 runners, early-morning mist heavy in the valley, mountains all around. The horses pranced excitedly. This was thrilling.

Vic and I got the horses and we soon found a rhythm. No cantering allowed, just trotting. I felt guilty, of course, that I should be on horseback while the guys ran alongside, but then they liked running (so I told myself) and Vic and I had taken lessons especially. It was the best preparation I did, learning from an experienced long-distance rider who believed in expending as little



energy as possible. Relax, that was the key.

Finally it was time to hand the horses back to their wranglers and to cross the Lillooet River. It was fast-moving and had that blue-grey opaqueness of a river that has flowed straight off a glacier. It was perhaps 60 yards wide. "Would you cross this?" I asked myself, "even if there were something tantalising on the other side, such as a pub and the promise of a cold beer?" The answer was clearly: "No."

And yet we did. Mike, then Ran, then David, then Vic threw themselves in headlong with their rucksacks in their hands. When I plunged in myself, the cold stole my breath and on adrenaline alone I struck frantically for the opposite bank. It was a while before I realised that something was amiss. The current had swept Vic downstream and in a flash Mike was after him, dragging him to the shallows, near freezing.

Ran put it well when questioned by the ubiquitous film crew. "Team dynamics?" he said, "they're great. Vic tries to drown himself and we don't have to do anything. Mike's in

there. Automatic." Hardly another word was spoken. Stoic stock, the Strouds.

There was a brief respite. Each team had a support crew of two: in our case Mo, who had assisted Ran and Mike in various chilly wildernesses around the world, and her daughter Moira. They made a welcoming sight, bearing dry clothes and hot water for drinks.

The next leg was to take us into the mountains. A couple of days should crack it, we thought, and packed freeze-dried rations accordingly. Our rucksacks were heavy. The mandatory kit — radio, flares and smoke bombs — filled half a sack alone, then there were the sleeping bags, ice-axes, crampons and so on.

We lost almost immediately, by which I mean we were in dense undergrowth with no sign of anything resembling the promised "poorly flagged trail". This, we were to learn, was intermit-

tently to be the story for the following four days. But for the moment we needed rest. We found the perfect spot: a mossy glade perched high on a precipitous face. We threw a log over the edge and listened to it rumble into the depths below. We lay down our sleeping bags and slept. I kept an ice-axe at my side in case bears appeared.

It was quite tough, this mountainous leg of the course. The forest was dense with slide alder — lethal on any sort of slope — and devil's claw. Plants and insects alike attacked bare and covered limbs indiscriminately. The climbs were steep, temperatures soaring to 40C. But if ever Vic, as the old man among us, apologised for travelling slowly, we answered honestly that we were delighted.

It was beautiful country. There were sweeping snowfields, meadows of lupins and hillsides thick with saxifrage, edelweiss and Alpine asters. At the top of one such hill we learned that Helen Klein, back for another challenge, had sadly been forced to withdraw. But we were proud to be still going strong with a man who could now claim to be the oldest player in the race.

Our spirits were high. In the intense heat one day Mike turned, sweat pouring off his body: "It could almost be considered fun," he said, grinning broadly as another branch swiped him across the chops.

Each person played their role. Ran, tall and strong, hurled himself at the undergrowth to make a trail for us to follow. David's navigation led us precisely to a lone log on which to cross a river. And Vic continued to throw himself at steep slope, glacier and forest with an energy that belied his years, while Mike kept a watchful eye.

We crossed many glacial streams. But the sight of Mike supporting his father as they crossed the flow of one stream together in the fading light, aided by a ski stick, epitomised the spirit of the whole trip.

We arrived at the next checkpoint hungry and tired but elated. Little did we realise that the real fun was about to start. Mike had it all planned. Until now we had enjoyed the luxury of several good nights' sleep. But if we were to make it to the next checkpoint on time, we must continue nonstop.

Canoeing was the next game. We launched two boats — two people in one, three in the other — into Downtown Lake at 11pm and canoed for four hours, around flats and over log boom, in the dim light of a full moon, then carried the boats for another three hours before launching them at dawn on a second, far longer stretch of water: Carpenter Lake.

We were on that lake all day. It went on, and on, and on. 50 miles in total. It was hot. We were tired and for the first time in my life, I hallucinated. We were all at it: elephants, cartoon Snopes, you name it, they were there in the mountains and water all around us. I begged Mike for an hour's

snooze at midday but he wouldn't have it. So I went for a quick dip instead, which kept me awake for at least five minutes.

It didn't really surprise me when, that evening, Mike declared once again that we should travel through the night, this time on our smart new mountain bikes. The hallucinations continued: big polystyrene architectural models in the clouds this time. On several occasions, pushing my bike up an absurdly long hill, I woke myself up as I veered into a bush. At three in the morning enough was declared enough, and guiltily we collapsed for a couple of hours.

And then it rained. The last stretch was about 30 miles on metalled roads, fortunately,

SPORT FOR ALL

the afternoon, only to learn that the organisers had stopped people going beyond this checkpoint at six o'clock the previous evening — earlier than had originally been scheduled. The weather was in part to blame.

That was it. We could go no further. It was a shame because the next section was the glacier and it would have been fun. But Vic could at least have the satisfaction of knowing that not only was he the oldest competitor, but that he didn't give up — unlike many younger ones. Only 14 of the 75 teams went further than we did and of those only three teams completed the course in its original form. What's more, there were a good 40 teams of deeply tanned, muscular legs that came in behind us.

MARATHON
The race is already on to enter the 1997 Flora London Marathon on Sunday, April 13. Forms are available in the free magazine *Marathon News*, which is available from selected sports shops. Entries close on October 26.

Those who have run in the event in the last five years or applied to enter over the last two should have received the magazine. Successful applicants will be notified in December. To find your nearest shop, phone 01923-417744.

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

What rubber bridge contract gives you 1,800? I scored it the other day in the £100 game at TGR's. I still went home two sticks the poorer. (In gambling slang a "stick" is £1,000.)

Dealer South North-South game Rubber bridge

♦A2		N	♦J9
♦Q10 6 5		W	♦A8 7 2
♦KJ3		E	♦10 5
♦AK9 8		S	♦J7 6 5
♦Q 10 6 5	N	♦J9	
♦K 3	W	♦A 8 7 2	
♦A 2	E	♦10 5	
♦Q 10 2	S	♦J 7 6 5	
			♦A K 3
			♦J 9 4
			♦A Q 9 8 7 6
			♦A 3

Contract: 3 NT redoubled, by South. Lead: ten of clubs

I was North. West's overcall of One Spade was sound — you don't need much in the way of high cards to intervene at the one level if you have a halfway decent suit. In particular, when you bid spades it cuts out your LHO's heart bid. If West had passed I had an easy One Heart response. Over One Spade I had an awkward choice; some would bid Two Spades immediately, but I think that bid should only be used if you have no obvious alternative. Duplicate players will recognise that North has a standard negative double of One Spade, but at rubber bridge the double is for penalties.

We arrived at the next checkpoint hungry and tired but elated. Little did we realise that the real fun was about to start. Mike had it all planned.

Until now we had enjoyed the luxury of several good nights' sleep. But if we were to make it to the next checkpoint on time, we must continue nonstop.

Canoeing was the next game. We launched two boats — two people in one, three in the other — into Downtown Lake at 11pm and canoed for four hours, around flats and over log boom, in the dim light of a full moon, then carried the boats for another three hours before launching them at dawn on a second, far longer stretch of water: Carpenter Lake.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- ASILUS
- a. A fly
- b. A theorem
- c. A type of bridge
- FLAMINGANT
- a. Flaming
- b. The scarlet geranium
- c. A Flemish-speaker

- DALCROZE
- a. Physical jerks
- b. Boule en croute
- c. A knitting stitch
- BATAVIA
- a. Chocolate pudding
- b. Shot silk
- c. A Utopia

Answers on page 44

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Amsterdam

The co-winner of the Donner Memorial tournament in Amsterdam was Vassily Ivanchuk, the powerful Ukrainian grandmaster. In the game that follows Ivanchuk scores a blistering sacrificial win with a new idea in the double-edged Marshall Gambit of the Ruy Lopez. The Marshall Gambit, offering a pawn for aggressive black counterchances, has proved a serious thorn in the flesh for White players who wish to enjoy an untroubled initiative.

Ivanchuk's strategy here is cunning. First he chooses the apparently pretentious move 12 d3 (instead of 12 d4) and thus avoids the main theoretical lines. Secondly, Ivanchuk's 17th move Qf1 helps to beat off the black attack and by move 27, the white queen is perfectly placed to tear into the defences of Black's king.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Ivan Sokolov

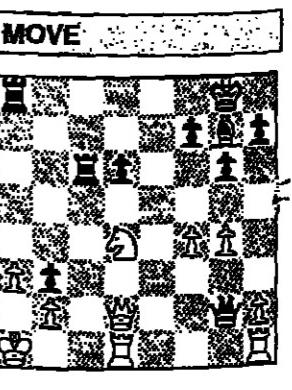
Amsterdam, August 1996

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5	Qh4
2	Nf3	No6	Qd3
3	Bb5	Qd7	Qd7
4	Bf4	Qd6	Bd7
5	Qd2	Qd5	Qd5
6	Qf1	Qd6	Qd6
7	Bb3	Qd5	Qd5
8	Qd3	Qd5	Kf7
9	Qd2	Qd5	Rg8
10	Nf3	Qd5	Rg7
11	Qd3	Qd5	Rg7
12	d3	Qd5	Rg7
13	Re1	Qd5	Rg7
14	a4	Qd5	Rg7
15	Qd6	Qd5	Rg7
16	No2	Qd5	Rg7
17	Qd1	Qd5	Rg7
18	Qd1	Qd5	Rg7
19	a4	Qd5	Rg7
20	Qd6	Qd5	Rg7
21	Pc4	Qd5	Rg7
22	Qd1	Qd5	Rg7
23	Nf3	Qd5	Rg7
24	No5	Qd5	Rg7
25	Qd3	Qd5	Rg7
26	Qd2	Qd5	Rg7
27	Qd2	Qd5	Rg7
28	Qd6+	Qd5	Rg7
29	Qd6+	Qd5	Rg7
30	Qd6	Qd5	Rg7
31	Bd7	Qd5	Rg7
32	Qd5+	Qd5	Rg7
33	Qd3+	Qd5	Rg7
34	Bc4	Qd5	Rg7
35	Qd6+	Qd5	Rg7
36	Bc2+	Qd5	Rg7
37	Re5+	Qd5	Rg7

The critical variation which tests White's attack came on move 30. If 30 ... Kf7 31 Bxh6+ Kf7 33 Re5 Red5 34 g5 followed by 35 Bf5 winning.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Black to play. This position is from the game Weller — Hall, Glasgow 1964. Can you calculate Black's brilliant combination, which is based upon his strong bishop on g7 and his open lines on the queenside?

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Weller — Hall, Glasgow 1964. Can you calculate Black's brilliant combination, which is based upon his strong bishop on g7 and his open lines on the queenside?

Solution on page 44

مكتبة من الأصل

Scots Law Report September 16 1996 Court of Session

Unlawful surrogacy payment does not preclude adoption of child**C. Petitioner**

Before the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Allanbridge and Lord Weir.

Judgment June 25

There was nothing in the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 to suggest that a person was disabled from obtaining a custody order in relation to a child by reason of that person being unable to obtain a parental order under section 3(1)(b) of the Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 as he had contravened section 30(7)(c) of that Act, because money or other benefit, other than expenses reasonably incurred, had been given or received for or in consideration of the handing over of the child.

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held when allowing an appeal by Mr C and his wife against the making of a custody order in terms of section 30(1)(b) of the Children Act 1975 in their favour by the sheriff at Dunfermline and substituting an adoption order in their favour in respect of baby X.

Mr Peter Gillam for the petitioners and respondents: Mrs Elizabeth Jarvie, QC and Miss Charlotte Courts for the respondent and applicant.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the child X who was the subject of the present proceedings had been born on March 30, 1995 to the appellant S as a result of a surrogacy arrangement which she had entered into with the petitioners, Mr and Mrs C.

X had been born at Kingston-upon-Hull and on the same day had been taken by Mr and Mrs C to their home in Scotland. He had remained in their care ever since.

In August 1995 the petitioners had lodged an adoption petition to which S had withheld her consent. After proof in February 1996, the sheriff at Dunfermline had held in terms of section 16(2)(b) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 that S was withholding consent unreasonably and that her agreement to the order should be dispensed with under section 10(1)(b)(ii) of the 1978 Act.

He had also held that Mr and Mrs C had contravened section 30(7)(c) of the 1978 Act and section 30(7) of the 1990 Act because they had made a payment of £5,000 to S.

He had therefore refused to make an adoption order, but in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of X he made a custody order in terms of section 30(1)(b) of the 1975 Act in favour of Mr and Mrs C with no right of access to S. S had appealed and Mr and Mrs C had cross-appealed.

S's three grounds of appeal were: first, that the sheriff had erred in fact and law in finding that she was withholding agreement to the adoption of X un-

reasonably; second, that the sheriff having decided to refuse to make an adoption order had erred in making a custody order; and third, that even if he had been entitled to award custody, she should have been allowed access.

The three grounds of the cross-appeal were: first, that the custody order was incompetent in the circumstances of the case; second, that the sheriff was in error in holding that the payment of £5,000 had been made in contravention of section 30(7)(c) of the 1978 Act, and in any event in failing to authorise it under section 30(3) if it were correct; third, that the sheriff ought to have held that any objection to the ground of public policy which resulted from the making of the payment was outweighed by the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood, and that she should have made an adoption order so as to vest all parental rights and duties in relation to X in Mr and Mrs C and bring an end to X's relationship with S.

Whether agreement unreasonably withheld

The sheriff had followed the approach described in *Lothain R. C v A* (1992 SLT 858) and had

applied the objective test defined by Lord Reid in *A v B and C* (1971 SC (HL) 1290).

He had held that the appellant as a reasonable person would take account of a number of factors in reaching a view in favour of adoption. These included the whole background to the matter and in particular the surrogacy arrangement.

It had been her decision to hand X over, when born, to the respondents. Thus she was in a sense responsible for placing the child with them.

The sheriff had also taken into account the fact that Mr C was the child's natural father, that he and his wife had had X in their care since the birth of the child and that X had been looked after well by them.

In the sheriff's view, the respondent would, as a reasonable parent, also take account of the fact that, all things being equal, a child was better served by two parents rather than one and of the fact that Mr and Mrs C had a close, happy and secure relationship, whereas S was alone. She would also have recognised that her own motives for refusing her consent were the result of thinking of herself only. She was, therefore, withholding her consent unreasonably.

In his Lordship's opinion, the

For the appellant, it had been argued that that decision taken together with the custody order and the refusal of access to S made enforceable what had been declared by the statutes to be unenforceable. She was an irresponsible mother who kept a good and tidy home and coped well with her four children.

In regard to the surrogacy arrangement, it had been argued that she had not been able to give her free and unconditional consent to the taking away of the child after its birth because of her distress.

In his Lordship's opinion, there was an ample basis in the facts to support the decision that S had withheld her consent unreasonably. It was clear that the question had to be looked at objectively and that she would be satisfied if no reasonable parent would be satisfied by the arrangement to the making of the adoption order.

The first consideration for the reasonable parent would be the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout its childhood. His Lordship could not improve on the observations of Lord Hailes, Lord Chancellor, in *Re W* (1971) AC 622.

In his Lordship's opinion, the

sheriff had been entitled to hold that the factors were not equally balanced in regard to the home environment and lifestyle which the parties could provide.

While the ability of S as a mother

to her four children was not in dispute, it was a fact that her father did not live with her and that he did not support the family. She was in that sense alone and she was also on state benefits.

Mr and Mrs C on the other hand had a secure relationship. There were reasons which the sheriff had identified for doubting the appellant's sense of personal responsibility: her past drug-taking, her reaction to professional advice and her decision to involve a tabloid newspaper in her desire to recover possession of the child.

The sheriff had held that she had had time and again throughout the summing up made out of section 53(1)(b) of the 1978 Act. That was because the court could only make such an order where it was of the opinion that it was more appropriate than an adoption order.

It was clear from the sheriff's opinion that she had been approached towards recovering the child had been self-sacrificing and she had usually closed her mind to the effect which that might have on the child.

His Lordship did not consider that the sheriff's judgment on these matters could be disturbed.

For the appellant, it had been

Custody and access

For the appellant, it had been submitted that, having decided he could not grant the adoption order, the sheriff should have dismissed the petition and delivered the child back to S.

Under and unless an adoption order was made, S continued to have parental rights in terms of section 2(1)(a) of the Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Act 1978.

There was considerable force in the submission for Mr and Mrs C that, standing the sheriff's view that it would be in the child's best interests to remain with Mr and Mrs C, it was not open to him, however desirable that might otherwise have seemed to avoid the problems caused by the payments to S, to make a custody order under section 53(1)(b).

The sheriff had been referred to as an asset in the form of the time of the handing over of the child to them. Mr and Mrs C intended either to seek a parental order in terms of the 1990 Act or to seek to adopt the child. That finding of fact provided the basis for the finding that the payment of £5,000 was an illegal payment in terms of section 30(7)(c) of the 1990 Act, and sections 24 and 51(1)(c) of the 1978 Act.

His Lordship could find nothing in the 1978 Act to suggest that a person who was unable to obtain a parental order under the 1990 Act, as he had contravened section 30(7)(c) of the 1978 Act, because money or other benefit, other than expenses reasonably incurred, had been given or received for or in consideration of the handing over of the child, was thereby disabled from obtaining an adoption order in relation to that child.

In his Lordship's opinion, it was only where the payment contravened section 51(1) of the 1978 Act that section 24(2) applied and the court was thereby precluded from making an adoption order.

The fact that the payment contravened section 30(7) of the 1990 Act might give rise to an objection to the making of an adoption order on the ground of public policy; but there was no statutory bar, as the issue was one for the exercise of a discretion of the court.

While both Acts prohibited the making of payments, it did not follow that a payment which was for a purpose struck at by one Act was struck at by them both. It was necessary to examine the evidence with some care.

In his Lordship's opinion, the evidence of Mr and Mrs C read as a whole pointed clearly to the conclusion that when the payments were made it was a parental order which they had in mind as the means of obtaining parental rights when the child was born.

For those reasons his Lordship did not consider that the sheriff had a sound basis in the evidence for his view that the payment was struck at by both Acts.

Lord Allanbridge and Lord Weir delivered concurring opinions.

Law agents: Macay Murray & Spens; Biggart Baillie & Gilford, WS.

choice to be made between the two orders.

It was not open to him to hold that as between those two possible orders, which was the more appropriate.

For those reasons his Lordship considered that the sheriff had misdirected himself in law in concluding that he could make a custody order in terms of that provision in this case.

The surrogacy payment

The sheriff's finding was that at

the time of the handing over of the child to them, Mr and Mrs C intended either to seek a parental order in terms of the 1990 Act or to seek to adopt the child. That finding of fact provided the basis for the finding that the payment of £5,000 was an illegal payment in terms of section 30(7)(c) of the 1990 Act, and sections 24 and 51(1)(c) of the 1978 Act.

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parental order under the 1990 Act,

as he had contravened section

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Lord Allanbridge and Lord Weir

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Law agents: Macay Murray &

Spens; Biggart Baillie & Gilford,

WS.

Law Report September 16 1996 Court of Appeal

Property charge includes interest**Ezekiel v Orakpo**

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Phillips

Judgment July 31

When a judgment creditor obtained a charge on a property as security for the judgment debt, the creditor's security extended also to interest on the debt even if interest was not expressly mentioned in the charging order.

Moreover, the amount of interest recoverable under the charging order was not limited by the Limitation Act 1996.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Isoloma Orakpo, and allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Freddy Jacob Ezekiel, from a decision of Mr Justice Carnwath in the Chancery Division (*The Times* November 8, 1994).

Nr Norman Primrose for the plaintiff; the defendant in person.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that in August 1979 the plaintiff obtained judgment against the defendant for £20,733.27 together with taxed costs. In March 1982 the plaintiff obtained a charging order absolute on the defendant's property for the sum of £31,695.85, that being the balance due on the judgment debt.

According to the plaintiff's solicitor's calculations, in January 1990 the total sum owing to the plaintiff inclusive of interest was over £47,000. By September 1994, interest alone had reached over £42,000 and the total sum inclusive of interest was over £75,000.

The master had ordered that the plaintiff be given possession of the property, that the property be sold and that the conduct of the sale be committed to the plaintiff's solicitors.

Judge Rich, QC, sitting as a High Court Judge had dismissed the defendant's appeal against the master's order and leave to appeal was refused.

The defendant then applied under Order 30, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and section 365 of the Charging Orders Act 1979 to vary or discharge the charging order on the ground that the judgment debt had been satisfied.

The basis of his application was that he had tendered a sum of £28,571.27 which was more than sufficient to satisfy the plaintiff's claim for interest and the costs of enforcing the security.

The defendant submitted that the plaintiff's charging order was security for the judgment debt only and not for interest or for the costs of enforcing the security.

Alternatively, he submitted that the plaintiff could not recover more than six years of interest by virtue of section 24(2) of the Limitation Act 1980 which provided that no interest in respect of any judgment debt could be recovered after the expiration of six years from the date on which interest became due.

Mr Justice Carnwath had ruled: (i) that the plaintiff's security did extend to interest on the judgment debt even though there was no express reference to it in the charging order, but (ii) that the effect of section 24(2) of the 1980 Act was to limit the amount of interest that the plaintiff could recover under the charging order to six years interest.

The defendant appealed from the first ruling and the plaintiff from the second.

The question on the defendant's appeal was whether the charging order secured the payment of interest on the judgment debt even though the order contained no mention of interest.

His Lordship said that question was concluded by authority for two different reasons.

First, under section 17 of the Judgments Act 1980, interest on a judgment debt was attached to and formed part of the judgment debt itself. The effect of the statutory provision that the debt carried interest of its own force was that the interest was, as it were, attached to the judgment debt.

That was decided in *Cloggett v Poole Lewis* (1887) 3d WR 653 where the judgment creditor was held to be entitled to interest even though there was no mention of interest in the judgment order.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Active Imaging, Arney, Arlen, EIS Group, English China Clays, Dinkle Heel, Fisher International, James Fisher, Norman Hay, Kynoch Group, Laporie, London & Manchester Group, Morgan Crucible, Princedale, Sharpe & Fisher, Tinsley Perkins, Finalis, City Technology, Dalgety, Doring Kindersley, Prolink, Income, Whiteman & Steele. **Economics:** US Treasury auction of short-term bills. EU agriculture ministers meeting. Bank of France discount T-bills auction and money market tender.

TOMORROW

Interims: Abbot Mead Vickers, Asda Property Holdings, Brent International, BSG International, BSM, W Canning, Cassell, Clermont Garments, EBC Group, Bernard Matthews, Meggit, Meristem, P&O, Roxboro Group, Sears, Servonix, Tinsley, Taylor Wood, Tinsley Universal Ceramic, Vardon, Vymura, Walmough Holdings, Finalis, Domestic & General, HTR Japanese Smallholder Companies, Esso. **Budget:** August PSBR, Bank of England announces details of September 25 gift auction. US August industrial production.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Charles Baynes, Bowthorpe, Britannic Assurance, British Biotech (q1), Hunting, Kwik Fit Holdings, Next, Tilbury Douglas, Tracker Network, Wassall, Wolstenholme Rink, Finalis, Bryant Group, S Lyles, M-R Group, Towny Law. **Economics:** UK August retail sales. Minutes of July 30 Clarke/George monetary policy meeting. US July trade balance. French 1997 Budget presented to Cabinet.

THURSDAY

Interims: Albright & Wilson, Biston & Battersea, Blagden Industries, Camas, Clinton Cards, Fired Earth, IBC Group, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, New Ireland Holdings, Rathbone Brothers, RMC Group, Sherwood Group, Spandex, Steel Burnill, Sun Life & Provincial Holdings, Finalis, Alumasc Group. **Economics:** UK British banking groups' end-August monthly statement, UK provisional August M4 money supply, UK August new vehicle production. UK building societies monthly mortgage data. Bundesbank central council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: Atlas Converting Equipment, Estates & General, Martin Currie, Pacific, Pacific Assets Trust, Finalis, Pizza Express, Thomas Walker. **Economics:** UK September CPI monthly trends.

Tesco to confirm its dominance

TESCO: Half-year figures tomorrow should help to confirm the group's dominant position as Britain's leading food retailer at a time when the price war shows signs of heating up in the run-up to Christmas. Pre-tax profits are expected to grow by about £30 million to £200 million, although earnings growth will be a little slower, up about 2 per cent to 10.1p. A tax refund of almost £30 million will be offset to a certain extent by a £20 million charge relating to the closure of two Home 'n' Wear distribution centres.

At the annual general meeting in June, the group confirmed that sales during the first 14 weeks of the current year were 13 per cent ahead of the comparable period. Like-for-like sales, however, were 3 per cent down on the same period last year.

The one black spot will be petrol retailing which will have seen margins squeezed because of the price war. But trading generally is reckoned to have been reasonably buoyant, allowing the group to move early towards its usual autumn round of pre-Christmas price promotions. Although earnings growth at the halfway stage will be subdued, shareholders should be rewarded with an increase in the half-year payout of about 6.5 per cent to 3.25p.

WM MORRISON: By contrast, Wm Morrison has seen a slowdown in sales growth. When it last reported in May, William Morrison said sales growth during the first 14 weeks of the year was 12.5 per cent, down 2 points on the first seven weeks of the preceding year.

Half-year pre-tax profits on Thursday will mirror the tough competitive environment being experienced, with brokers forecasting an unchanged figure of about £51 million. NatWest Securities, the broker, reckons the continuing sales growth at Asda will produce a further decline in like-for-like sales and another narrowing of margins at Wm Morrison. At the same time, the group will have incurred increased costs from its store refurbishment programme.

NEXT: There appears to be no sign of a slowdown in the strong sales growth that the group has enjoyed of late. Half-year figures



Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman, is expected to unveil figures that show buoyant trading

on Wednesday are expected to make pleasant reading and are likely to lead to another round of profit upgradings by brokers.

At present, pre-tax profits are set to surge from £44.1 million to £55 million on the back of the improved outlook for consumer spending. At the annual general meeting in May, Next reported a sales rise of 16 per cent, but brokers say the overall figure is now likely to be in excess of 20 per cent, boosted by the general improvement in clothes sales since then. Like-for-like sales are expected to be in the region of 15 per cent ahead.

SEARS: Unlike other high street retailers, the group seems to have

more than its fair share of problems. The statement accompanying full-year figures in April, warned shareholders not to expect too much from these results. Brokers have taken the company at its word and are forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits from £30.3 million to about £25 million when the group unveils half-year figures tomorrow. Even so, the dividend should be pegged at 1.05p net. Areas of concern are falling sales and profits at British Shoe Corporation and lower profits at Freemans. The upturn in consumer confidence may provide the basis for a recovery.

LAURA ASHLEY: If indications given at the annual general

meeting in May were anything to go by, half-year figures on Thursday, should be reasonably encouraging at first sight, with pre-tax profits doubled at £6 million, although that will compare with a depressed performance last time. The new management team under Ann Iverson will have concentrated its efforts on reducing costs and how best to utilise provisions for store closures and redundancies.

A further decline in margins is almost certain in the wake of last year's heavy stock clearances and the recession in Europe. Earnings will also double to 1.8p and the group is expected to make a return to the dividend list with a token payment of 1.5p.

DALGETY: The Petfood acquisition from Quaker Oats should have made a useful contribution to full-year figures out today. But that and a maintained final dividend of 13p net are likely to be the only positive things to emerge. Overall pre-tax profits are expected to tumble from £93.7 million to £46 million with earnings, already diluted by last year's rights issue, collapsing from 20.4p to 3.5p.

Even after adding back an expected rationalisation charge of almost £50 million, compared with £33.4 million last time, and a BSE related stock write-down of £14.4 million, profits will still be down from £125 million to £108 million. The Dalgety management continue to struggle to reduce the cost base.

HAYS: Full-year figures from the fast growing business services group out later this morning should show further progress. Pre-tax profits range from £130 million to £133 million compared with £101.3 million. The group continues to make acquisitions having earlier this year bought the Inland mail services group for £65 million.

MORGAN CRUCIBLE: Another impressive performance is expected from the group when it unveils half-year figures later this morning. A rise in pre-tax profits of about £6.5 million to £48.5 million is anticipated in spite of being hit by the strike at General Motors in the US and the fact that some of its markets remain depressed. A 12 per cent rise in earnings to £3.6p is being forecast and shareholders should be rewarded with a 5 per cent rise in the dividend to 6.55p net.

RMC GROUP: Not much has gone right for the group of late. Brokers say combination of poor weather, the recession in Germany, a further decline in France and little sign of recovery in this country should have all combined to drag half-year figures lower when the group reports on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are expected to drop from £130 million to between £90 million and £100 million. Earnings will also be down from 31.1p to 19.2p, but shareholders are likely to enjoy a 1p increase in the dividend to almost 8p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Borrowing may top £4bn

In Britain, the first focus of the week will be tomorrow with publication of public borrowing figures for August. As the Budget looms ever closer, monthly figures will inevitably pique increasing interest. In August, the Government is expected to have borrowed £4.1 billion, according to a consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, after a net repayment of £1.7 billion in July.

The next point of interest is on Wednesday when retail sales for August are published and are expected to show a continuation of the overall upward trend. In July sales fell by 0.6 per cent but this largely reflected a fall-back from extremely buoyant figures in June. August is expected to see a rise in sales volumes of 0.5 per cent. Economists are also waiting for publication on Thursday of the latest Confederation of British Industry industrial trends survey and latest bank and building society lending figures for August.

For the financial markets, there is more focus this week on events overseas. With a crucial meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee on September 24, all eyes are on US statistics. Early last week, the markets became convinced that the Fed would raise interest rates, but weak inflation data later in the week introduced some doubt. This week, the main focus will be on industrial production and capacity utilisation figures tomorrow and housing starts on Thursday.

Survey evidence suggests that the production figures should show a pickup in manufacturing activity, according to Adam Chester of Yamaichi International Europe. Surveys from the Fed and the purchasing managers have been stronger and non-farm payrolls showed their best gain in August since January 1995. There is also a great deal of interest in European budget announcements as aspiring members of a single currency try to bring their deficits in line with the Maastricht criteria. This week, the focus is on France which announces the details of its Budget on Wednesday. Sweden introduces its budget on Friday.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Sears, Tesco, Delphi Group, BWI. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Dalgety, MFI, Freeport Leisure, Brunner Mond, Wembley. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy Kingfisher, Rosey, Nynex CableComms, Pace Micro Technology; Sell Memory Corporation. **The Observer:** Sell Railtrack. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Kynoch, Finelist; Take Profits Aegis.

Strong sterling 'hurt UK in 1980s'

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE large appreciation of sterling in the early 1980s resulted in a permanent deterioration in Britain's trade performance, according to a new study from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Bob Anderton, the author, notes

that between 1979 and 1984, import penetration rose by more than a quarter, manufacturing employment fell by 25 per cent and imports from newly industrialising countries soared by more than 120 per cent. The link between these events, he argues, is the fact that sterling appreciated by around 30 per cent between 1979 and 1981 before returning

to its original level by the end of 1983.

Mr Anderton contends that this temporary appreciation in sterling led to permanent loss of market share. It effectively offered a discount on import prices which encouraged British purchasers to sample the quality of previously untried imported goods. The problems were exacerbated because the

severe recession that accompanied sterling's rise led to a notable deterioration in Britain's investment performance. He estimates that these effects together accounted for around a third of the rise in import penetration between 1979 and 1984 and around 40 per cent of the decline in the UK's share of world exports of manufactured goods.

BY OUR CITY STAFF

NINE out of every ten managers believe their job-related stress is adversely affecting morale, health, efficiency and relationships. As a result, half say they do not look forward to going to work.

A joint survey by the Institute of Management and a health products manufacturer

said the three most stressful factors at work are unreasonable deadlines, office politics and the strain of firing someone. But Britain's stressed managers are keeping silent because admitting to stress is seen as a sign of weakness.

The survey provides a gloomy picture of UK workforce now suffering severely from stress and overwork. The only sol-

ution is for business to drop its "macho and heroic" image of stress and encourage greater co-operation and support, says the survey.

The Institute interviewed 1,100 member managers. The survey said that poor stress management meant inefficiencies, lost production and absenteeism. An estimated 270,000 people are taking time off because of work-related stress, representing a £7 billion annual cost in lost production and meeting health payments.

More than half the managers (52 per cent) complained of overwork, compared with 40 per cent in a similar survey three years ago. Only 50 per cent said they look forward to going to work, compared with 62 per cent in 1993.

Stress taking its toll of managers

JOHN KAY, chairman of London Economics and Visiting Professor of Economics at the London Business School, has been named as the new director of the Oxford University School of Management Studies. He takes up the post at the start of next year.

Professor Kay succeeds Clark Brundin, who is retiring. The post is funded by the Peter Moores Foundation, and he will be known as the Peter Moores Director of the Oxford School of Management Studies. In July the school received a £20 million benefaction from Wafic Said, the businessman.

Professor Kay had previously been director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, and Professor of Economics and director of the Centre for Business Strategy at the London Business School.

He was a lecturer in economics at Oxford University and remains a Fellow of St John's College.

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Franc faces turbulence over crucial budget

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE French franc could face some turbulence this week when the Government led by Alain Juppé announces its crucial Budget for 1997, the test year under the Maastricht treaty for entry into a single currency.

Professor Juppé succeeds Jean Arthuis, France's Finance Minister, details the Budget on Wednesday. It is

expected to claim to get the deficit down to the 3 per cent Maastricht limit with significant spending cuts offset by around Fr25 billion of income tax cuts next year.

The question for the franc is whether the markets find the figures credible.

Jean-François Mercier, of Salomon Brothers, predicted

that the Budget would not ease lingering investor doubts about France's ability to control its deficits over the long term.

Julian Jessop, of Nikko Europe, said that the Government's measures will be inadequate and leave the deficit at over 4 per cent of GDP in 1997 because the structural deficit is much worse than the Government admits and because growth will not come up to its expectations.

However, there is a growing view in the currency markets that, however questionable the budget arithmetic, France will join a single currency because of political determination. Many traders therefore feel no compelling reason to attack the franc.

This camp believes that the Government will come up with the necessary arithmetic. It is already clear that it is prepared to make liberal use of creative accounting.

On top of this BT has generally contributed between £1 billion and £2.4 billion a year since privatisation. This contrasts with a contribution to the public purse in the four years before privatisation of up to £625 million a year.

NERA attributes the large contribution of the privatised companies to a dramatic improvement in the profitability of the privatised companies which has led to significantly higher corporation tax receipts; dividend receipts from those firms in which the Government kept a substantial residual shareholding; and continued interest receipts and repayments of government debt.

John Major as its patron, contrasted these riches with an average drain on the Exchequer from the nationalised industries between 1980 and 1982 of £30 million a year.

The CPS attacked the Labour Party for voting against every privatisation since

1979 and accused it of wanting to penalise successful management by imposing windfall taxes. "If privatisation is so beneficial to the Exchequer, then what is the justification for its proposed windfall tax?" it asked. NERA picks out some companies for special mention. It notes that the Government received £13 billion from its sale of shares in British Telecom.

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Rachel Bridge on the Australian Stock Exchange becoming listed

Moving even nearer to the market

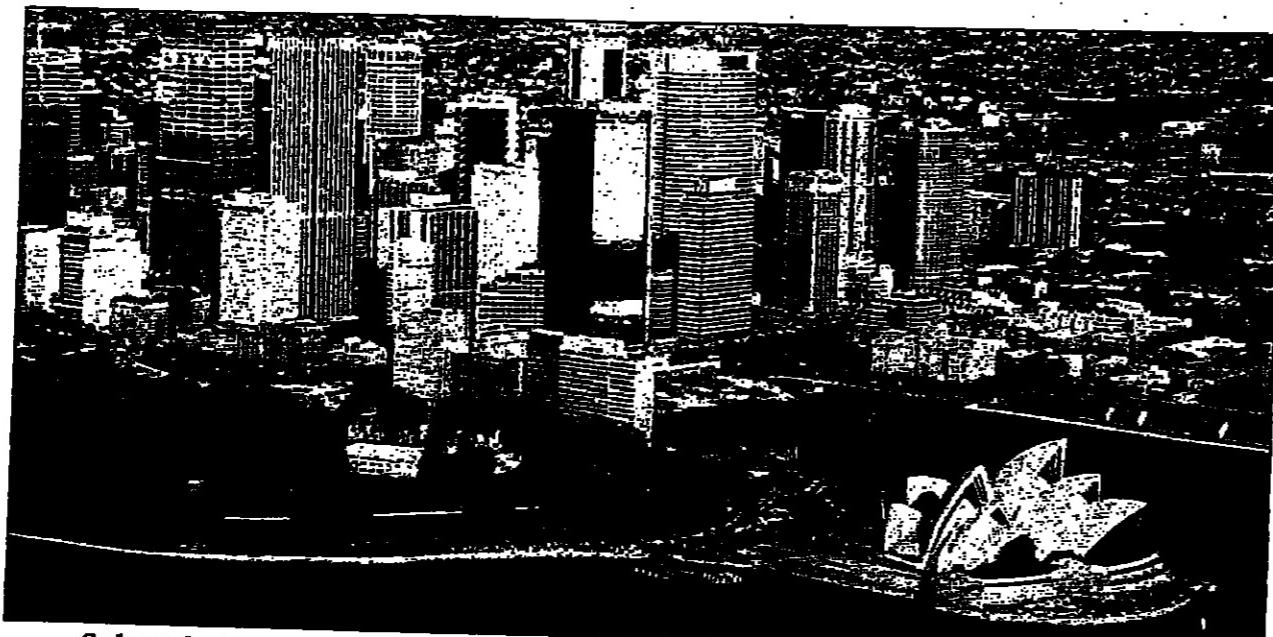
The Australian Stock Exchange has moved a step closer to realising the ambitious dream of becoming the first exchange in the world to secure a stock market listing, with a target value of A\$150 million (£75 million).

While a handful of stock exchanges around the world, including Stockholm, Copenhagen, Athens and Amsterdam, have taken the first step of demutualisation, not one has yet attempted the next big step of a stock market float. And the London Stock Exchange is monitoring the Australian Stock Exchange's progress.

The London Stock Exchange said: "Any new development that an exchange around the world undertakes we monitor with interest and take a keen interest in. For the last two years we have been looking at what people are doing around the world and from that we've drawn up a strategy."

It added that it had ruled out any form of demutualisation at present, but said it was something it might consider in the future.

Members of the Australian Stock Exchange are scheduled



Sydney's business community could see the Australian Stock Exchange's shares trading in early 1998

to vote on the demutualisation proposals next month. Richard Humphrey, managing director, said that the exchange's shares could begin trading in early 1998, pending government approval.

There is a growing feeling among the exchange's mem-

bers that the existing mutual status is outdated and inappropriate. The Australian Stock Exchange is currently owned by 520 stockbroking firms. All revenue earned from company listings is channelled back into development. Under the new proposals

well, but we now have to change to grow. I think we will be able to make decisions more quickly and be more flexible and, therefore, more responsive to market change."

He added: "The only conflict we have got to avoid is to ensure that the Australian Stock Exchange is not supervising itself." He has suggested that the exchange should be regulated by the Australian Securities Commission. To prevent any unwelcome advances from over-enthusiastic foreign exchanges, a 10 per cent limit on share ownership is being mooted.

Mr Newman insisted that a corporate structure would enable the exchange to react faster to opportunities emerging in the global financial arena. "We need to change to grow. It's not the big devouring the small any more, it's the quick devouring the slow."

The exchange's stockbrokers seem in favour of the move. One said: "After many years of paying in to the exchange, the prospect of a regular dividend is pretty attractive. I would be very surprised if the proposal gets knocked back."

Yes, but which department?

APPLICANTS for the Which? credit card, run by Beneficial Bank and unsurprisingly declared a "best buy" in the Consumer's Association magazine, can start filing their complaints. Beneficial has been forced to send out apologetic letters. The bank has run out of application forms and is midway through a print run. A call to customer services inquiring how long the rerun might take, brought only a suggestion of making another phone call to the bank's applications department, who then asked "Could you ring customer services, please?"

Travel wise

EXECUTIVE travel has never been so hectic or so cheap, for Mercury Asset Management which sent a team of two to Arizona over the weekend, without packing their wallets. To raise money for St John Ambulance, MAM raced against City teams to get as far away as possible from the Tower of London in 24 hours without spending any money. Female employees from the Woolwich Building Society dressed as Bond girls went to Paris, while solicitors from Ashurst Morris Crisp took a circuitous route — by horse, minkcoat, roller blade, coach, plane and being rowed down the Thames by Olympic oarsman Jonny Searle — to Washington.

Romanian star

SIR Rowland Whitehead, the 66-year-old skydiver and former managing director of mergers and acquisitions at Brown Shipley, will succeed Sir Raymond Appleyard as president of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting. Sir Rowland, who cites "rural indolence" as one of his pleasures in *Who's Who*, is also working on a competition for rising business stars in Romania. He has set up the Thatcher Prize for Good Business, and his fingers are crossed that Lady Thatcher will travel to Romania in May to present the award. Meanwhile, Sir Rowland is whizzing to and fro in Romania in a desperate bid to learn the lingo.

MORAG PRESTON



Adam Shore mixed comedy with politics on TV

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 40

ASILUS

(a) A member of a genus of flies belonging to the order Diptera, family Asilidae. Q.A. hornet-fly, hawk-fly or robber-fly. From the Latin *asillus* a gadfly. "They discuss the asilos and the ostrum."

FLAMINGANT

(a) An advocate of the recognition of Flemish as an official language of Belgium, or of the exclusive use of Flemish in certain parts of Belgium. French *flamenghe*, Dutch *Vlaams*. "They (sc. the Walloons) consider the Flemings to be unpatriotic and pro-German."

DALCROZE

(a) Eurythmics. An eponym of E. Jacques-Dalcroze (1865-1950), a Swiss exponent of musical education through physical exercise used attributively and elliptically to designate his system, the movements involved, or an institution where the method is taught. D. H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*, 1920: "Will you sing while I do Dalcroze?" "While you do —?", she asked vaguely. "Dalcroze movements," said Gudrun."

BATAVIA

(b) A kind of shot silk material. A toponym of the former name of Djakarta, capital of Indonesia. "A new shot silk, known as Batavia. Smart little coats carried out in this Batavia silk look particularly well."

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Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 11 July, 1996 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 16 September, 1996.

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United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 16 September, 1996

IMF looks at gold for poor again

New care plan

Drug project

Schools study

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IMF looks at 'gold for poor' again

The International Monetary Fund will start talks again on Wednesday over a controversial plan to sell part of its gold reserves to finance debt relief for poor countries.

Stanley Fischer, IMF first deputy managing director, said that an agreement was not in the bag but looked very likely. The IMF would sell around five million of its 104 million ounces of gold under an idea floated and campaigned for by Britain. It has met staunch opposition, particularly from Germany.

New care plan

Care for older people should be free at the point of delivery but supported by a new system of compulsory care insurance contributions, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation proposes today.

It estimates that its scheme would initially add £50 million a year to public spending but that there would be substantial gains for taxpayers as the fund grew.

Drug project

PepTech, an Australian pharmaceutical research company working on commercial uses for peptide-based technologies, plans to raise at least £10 million by a private placing in London and to seek a secondary listing on the Stock Exchange. PepTech is looking at drugs for human and veterinary use.

Schools study

The standard of local schools is one of the key factors affecting long-term regional economic performance, according to a new study published by Business Strategies. The study found that areas with higher proportions of school-leavers with no qualifications had weaker economies.



A cinema in Bangkok, where the British company Pacific Media aims to transform movie-going in partnership with United Artists of the US

BA attempts to smooth way for alliance with American

By JON ASHWORTH AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH AIRWAYS has embarked on a final round of intense lobbying as the Office of Fair Trading nears its decision on whether or not the company's proposed alliance with American Airlines should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, has written to BA customers outlining the benefits of the proposed tie-up. Mr Ayling raises the prospect of shuttle-style services from Heathrow to New York and Chicago, and emphasised that the two carriers would remain legally distinct. Competitors, including

Virgin Atlantic, say the alliance is a merger in all but name.

The debate is now expected to turn on the issue of landing and take-off slots at Heathrow. BA holds 38 per cent of the slots — with American it rises to 40 per cent — but claims the amount is considerably less than at other home-base airports. Lufthansa, which has an alliance with United, has about 63 per cent of the slots at Frankfurt.

Prospects for the alliance have been complicated by the breakdown of talks between the UK and America aimed at securing an "open skies" agreement. The talks turn on different interpretations of "open skies", which, in a limited sense, means freedom on any route between America and the UK, including access to Heathrow.

BA argues that prospects for "open skies" will fade if the alliance is blocked. This it says, will mean less competition across the Atlantic because additional US carriers will not gain access to Heathrow. Less competition will mean less downward pressure on fares. BA further argues that transit passengers

account for up to half its traffic across the north Atlantic, and says business will be lost to hubs elsewhere in Europe.

However, BA's rivals insist the American alliance would create a stranglehold on North Atlantic routes.

□ BA's senior managers will learn on Wednesday how much of the company is to be sold off, with the potential loss of thousands of jobs. A four-month internal study aimed at finding £1 billion of cost savings over the next three years is nearing completion, and first indications of which

traded out" will be spelled out to managers.

British Airways is determined to cut its costs sharply to compete with European airlines such as Lufthansa, the growing number of cut-priced airlines such as EasyJet offering no frills flights on short haul services and the Channel Tunnel train services.

Staff have already been told that job losses cannot be ruled out, and when the project — known as Step Change — was first announced in May it was made clear that no section of the airline's operations would escape scrutiny.

The future of the British Rail Property Board (BRPB), the state-owned operation that manages commercial estates and the rump of properties left behind after Railtrack was privatised, is up in the air with the appointment of private consultants to conduct a review.

Michael Buckley, chairman of Pacific Media, said that the Singapore experience was encouraging. He said: "If you can get this much success in a territory with too many cinemas, what are the prospects for the wider region?" People in Asia, he says, are phantom cinema-goers, with seven to eleven visits a year on average, against 3.4 visits in America, and only two in the UK.

BRPB is responsible for managing British Rail's remaining property interests, which include office buildings and surplus land already earmarked for disposal. It also has responsibility for closed branch lines and structures, which in many cases are thought to be unsaleable but still requiring some maintenance.

Many of British Rail's prime sites such as the White City development, the Paddington basin site, and a number of city centre stations, was absorbed by Railtrack.

There have been suggestions that Chesterton itself may propose taking over management of BRPB's estate portfolio as part of its growing involvement in such facilities.

Pacific Media seeking silver from screens of Far East

By JON ASHWORTH

GOING to the cinema in Thailand or Malaysia may soon become a less hairy experience because of a pioneering British company.

Pacific Media, the AIM-listed media group, has teamed up with United Artists (UA), the American film giant, to launch a range of branded multiplex cinema complexes throughout South East Asia.

Cinema operators are increasingly looking to Asia for new opportunities. Ten years ago, 75 per cent of all cinema receipts came from America.

By 2000, 60 per cent of box office returns are expected to be from outside the US. In South-East Asia, turning "leap-pit" cinemas into modern multiplexes, screening westernised films and backed by branded retail concessions, is seen as a formula for success.

Pacific Media's first project, a three-screen cinema complex in Singapore's Bugis Junction, has drawn average occupancy of 52 per cent in its first year, and the company is branching out. A four-screen cinema is to open in Singapore in November, a deal has been clinched in Thailand, and there are plans to expand in China, Malaysia and Taiwan. Pacific Media and UA hope to have up to 160 screens throughout the region by the end of 1998.

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Sell-off possible at BR Property

By KEITH RODGERS

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Instem highlights AIM drawbacks

By FRASER NELSON

THE Alternative Investment Market was shunned last week by Instem — a computer systems company on the Unlisted Securities Market that decided to bypass the junior exchange and seek a full listing.

While the group had nothing against the AIM, up to 20 per cent of Instem's investors hold its shares through a personal equity plan, which they could not do if it moved to AIM.

Together with the unfathomable rules that discern eligibility for capital gains tax relief, these anomalies may prove to be the market's undoing — according to a

report from Albert E Sharp. The broker issues a warning that unless regulation is tightened, AIM may suffer when the EASDAQ exchange opens later this year.

Yooman, which makes satellite-guided map co-ordination systems, is joining AIM. It has sold 10,000 of its devices, which were first endorsed by the American military.

Three companies joined AIM last week: PolyDoc, Grosvenor Land Holdings and Dartland — all fetching reasonable premiums.

The FT-SE AIM index fell 26.40 points over the week, closing at 1040.30.

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148	132	1450 AFA Systems	145	+ 3	4.7	10.0	...	5.7	3.3
134	109	19.00 AMCI Corp	133	+ 1	4.7	10.0	...	125	82
113	57	20.70 AND Int'l Pub	95	-	57.8	...	32.20	15.5	12.5
161	98	3.10 Arcon Recruit	57	-	...	...	129	22	34
210	123	22.80 Astoria Imaging	132	-	...	12.6	22.10	17.0	12.5
204	74	29.50 Ateo de Gruy	200	-	3.8	15.6	21.0	27.0	15.4
217	13	15.70 African Gold	154	-	3.4	34.1	29.50	25.5	15.4
58	33	6.31 Alcyone	36	-	1	...	12.00	12.0	12.0
48	10	7.75 Alpha Unifilm	10	-	4.8	12.9	4.35	10.0	10.8
480	380	40.00 Anheuser-Busch	400	-	4.8	12.9	10.00	10.0	10.8
905	885	5.84 An Si Cr Pl	985	-	8.2	...	8.25	8.25	8.25
121	48	53.60 Antonov	73	-	3	10.0	5.55	5.55	5.55
9	7	1.78 Arion Progs	7	-	59.9	...	35.00	24.0	26.7
141	32	30.70 Ashurst	35	-	2	...	4.00	1.0	29.1
64	55	20.50 Asial Central	127	-	...	...	12.00	12.0	12.0
148	12	1.16 AT&T Int'l Trst	147	-	...	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
124	54	45.00 ATM Adv Comms	45	-	...	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
133	116	8.37 Atheneus	54	-	4.7	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
68	64	12.40 Belcarco Health	64	-	...	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
46	37	3.33 Belcarco	37	-	...	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
150	140	1.01 Bowness Leis	147	-	3.8	9.4	10.00	10.0	10.0
70	70	0.34 Bowens Leis Cr Pl	70	-	2	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
70	41	8.24 Brundale Hldgs	47	-	2	26.7	10.00	10.0	10.0
102	93	3.20 Brundale Hldgs	50	-	2.0	26.7	10.00	10.0	10.0
50	24	60.80 Brundale	50	-	1.8	15.2	10.00	10.0	10.0
124	116	14.10 CA Cottol Hldgs	132	-	0.7	17.7	10.00	10.0	10.0
110	104	1.06 CA Cottol Hldgs	132	-	7.3	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
213	95	0.12 CDT Founder Shs	109	-	1.9	13.2	10.00	10.0	10.0
75	55	4.57 Caledonian Tel	67	-	8.2	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
3%	2	2.20 Caldicott & Wm	2	-	2	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
91	68	12.20 Cardex	79	-	0.8	18.0	10.00	10.0	10.0
43	39	14.40 Card Clear	32	-	4	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
108	91	9.58 Carrbridge Ship	94	-	8.2	...	10.00	10.0	10.0
72	56	3.06 Cassidy Bros	56	-	6.7	10.1	10.00	10.0	10.0
48	41	2.07 Cavendish W	47	-	3.9	22.8	10.00	10.0	10.0
21	15	6.68 Celebrated Group	20</td						

William Waldegrave, the thinking person in the Treasury, made a typically thoughtful speech in the City last week. Its most remarkable feature, however, was what he did not say. The Chief Secretary commands a philosophic ideal of the good economic society. It has equality of opportunity but can only justify inequality of income and wealth if that benefits the worst off.

By deft use of statistics Mr Waldegrave then proves that Britain meets the inequality test. If only people would look at the figures, instead of feeling miserable, they would see that poverty has not risen and they are, if anything, more economically secure. He then shows that America fails the inequality test, along with Australia and New Zealand. Real wages for most Americans on below-average incomes have been static for the past decade.

What comes next? A searching critique of American labour markets, you might think, to find out why the land of the free has become a candidate for communist revolt. Instead, Mr Waldegrave lauds the "Anglo-Saxon" approach and dares that of continental Europe.

The philosophy of workplace protection symbolised by the EU social chapter offers false security, he argues. It deters employers from creating jobs and encourages them to evade the rules. Everyone is worse off if labour markets are inflexible because unemployment is higher and growth lower. And any attempt

Economic ideal of society fails to impress the poor

to redress widening inequality via the tax system or a minimum wage would have equally malign effects.

The social chapter is, admittedly, a political sitting duck. Germany, France and Italy are cutting back social protection while they castigate Britain for staying out. The Anglo-Saxon agenda is now the agenda for joining a European currency. The chapter also embarrasses Labour.

The carpet of social protection, expertly dangled by Jacques Delors, converted Labour and the TUC into enthusiastic Europeans. In those days, they saw no hope of enacting such laws at home. Now Labour claims that the social chapter would have hardly any impact and just makes you a good European.

That still leaves the American dilemma. Had the Chief Secretary addressed it, he would doubtless have agreed with his boss, Kenneth Clarke, that Britain wins because it combines free and flexible markets with a social safety net. But this does not really stand up.

Poverty in work, unemployment or economic inactivity has made social security spending unsustainable high. In an earlier role, Mr Waldegrave himself set off the explosion in housing benefit as a *quid pro quo* for freeing rents. The ensuing high tax burden and high deficits constrain growth and job creation just like continental social protection. There is constant pressure to whittle away benefits. If Mr Clarke tried to meet the Maastricht tests, he would need more cuts.

America, meanwhile, is clearly not too worried about failing the inequality test. The reason perhaps is that the vast majority do not feel poor, even though there is a big, poor, havoc-wreaking underclass.

But lots of people feel poorer in Britain, a lot more perhaps, than on the Continent. One test is the

number of families relying on means-tested benefits, which has reached ridiculous proportions. Families having to go cap in hand to the benefit office feel poor, regardless of their living standard.

Above the lowest levels, poverty is relative, and partly in the eye of the sufferer. The numbers over job insecurity, low pay and unemployment is, to extent politically academic. Relative poverty is not just about money either. The poor are unlikely to envy the rich if their own values are those of the country. The social solidarity in Germany's restrictive contract between capital and labour is the equivalent of the spirit of the Declaration of Independence in America. In Japan, almost everyone claims to be middle class.

In Britain, the middle classes are still often thought of as the likes of accountants, lawyers, company directors, plus the odd clubland journalist. John Major thinks inheritance tax is a big issue for Middle England, even though, on a generous interpretation, only 5 per cent of estates are liable. In the enterprise culture, schools teachers are failures and Godfearing Caribbean families a joke. Low-income employees should be the next objective.

That is not easy politics. On the tests of opportunity, inequality, and incentive it would take Britain nearer the good economic society.

only hope for redemption through the National Lottery.

This helps to explain why "fat cats" have proved such an unlikely political goldmine for Labour and why the idea of a statutory minimum wage is so popular, almost as much to the embarrassment of Tony Blair as of Mr Waldegrave. Better lifetime training and quick job turnaround may be more effective tools to attack poverty. A minimum wage has more appeal. If the level were modest, say £3.30 an hour, there is also a good chance that it would take more people off benefits than it put on via unemployment.

This is an economic gain but, like the social chapter, mainly symbolic. A more effective attack on poverty would focus on incentives in the tax system. The minimum wage could be most useful as a benchmark for income tax and social security thresholds, matters too important to government finances to allow a commission to fix.

No-one in receipt of means-tested benefits should be paying income tax. The Chancellor could make a big impact on the most glaring area of poverty — single-parent families with children — by doubling the married person's allowance for these families, restoring the link between tax and benefit systems. A sharp rise in the basic allowance should be the next objective.

That is not easy politics. On the tests of opportunity, inequality, and incentive it would take Britain nearer the good economic society.

RADIO CHOICE

Going to bed with a poem

A Book at Bedtime: The Nation's Favourite Poems. Radio 4, 10.45pm.

Somebody once said prose is the beggar of poetry. Or was it the other way round? Either way, it is implicitly why this week's *Book at Bedtime* is taken up with verse. I believe it is the first time a national poll has inspired Radio 4's consistently entertaining 10.45pm spot to amend its terms of reference. The poll identified the 50 best-loved poems in the British Isles. Except for its title there were no ifs — or buts — about the chart-topper. It was Kipling's *If*, and John Nettles reads it tonight. Selections from the remaining 49 favourites will be read during the rest of the week by Siobhan Redmond, Greg Wise and Emma Fielding.

The Health of Planet Earth. BBC World Service, 10.30pm.

I thought that *Homo sapiens* got off pretty lightly last Monday when John Murphy launched his six-part inquiry into the environmental mess we seem to have got ourselves into. Apparently, the blame for global warming isn't ours alone. Natural forces are at work, too. In the end, of course, it pretty well comes down to the same thing: Earth may survive, but will we? Part two of Murphy's worrying series notes that, although the Western world has stopped producing and using some come-destroying chemicals, the Third World has not. So I'm afraid that an ill wind from China or India could blow all of us to good at all.

RADIO 1

All times in BST. News on the Hour 5.30 Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Saturday 8.30 Andy Kershaw 8.15 On the Line 9.30 Mark Goodier, incl Newsbeat and the Diamond Jam 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert: Reading 9.15 Highlights of the last of the summer's big outdoor festivals [levels] 9.20 Mark Radcliffe 10.00 Claire Suttor 10.45 Charlie Jordan. Ace leads and the morning's dullest music mix.

RADIO 2

Film Stereo 8.00pm Chris Evans, 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farrow 12.30 Mark Radcliffe 1.00 Mark Goodier, incl Newsbeat and the Diamond Jam 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert: Reading 9.15 Highlights of the last of the summer's big outdoor festivals [levels] 9.20 Mark Radcliffe 10.00 Claire Suttor 10.45 Charlie Jordan. Ace leads and the morning's dullest music mix.

RADIO 3

4.00pm Mark Griffiths 6.00 Breakfast Show 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simon 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00pm Cabinet Concerto 4.00 Jamie Crichton 5.00pm The Proms 6.00pm Sonata Beethoven (Horn Sonata in F, Op. 177) 7.00 Celebrity Choices (r) 8.00 Evening Concert, Handel Zadok the Priest, the trumpet will sound the King's shall rejoice; Mozart (Flute and Harp Concerto in C); Davies (An Orkney Wedding) 10.00 Michael Mappin 11.00 Mel Cooper

CLASSIC FM

4.00pm Mark Griffiths 6.00 Breakfast Show 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simon 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00pm Cabinet Concerto 4.00 Jamie Crichton 5.00pm The Proms 6.00pm Sonata Beethoven (Horn Sonata in F, Op. 177) 7.00 Celebrity Choices (r) 8.00 Evening Concert, Handel Zadok the Priest, the trumpet will sound the King's shall rejoice; Mozart (Flute and Harp Concerto in C); Davies (An Orkney Wedding) 10.00 Michael Mappin 11.00 Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 8.00 Richard Stenner 12.00 Grand Dame 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) 8.00 Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00pm Jeremy Clark

RADIO 3 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Morning Show 12.00 Midday with Mai 2.00 Praise on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Games that Changed Football 8.00 The Monday Match: Coverage from America v Scotland Wednesday from America v Scotland Friday 11.00 Night Shift 12.00pm The Other Side of Midnite 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna新的 3.00 Tomorrows Boyd 2.00 Peter Deasy 7.00 Steve Vizard 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air: Rossini (Overture: The Barber of Seville) Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor); Cherubini (L'heure marche); Britten (Canticello No. 1; My beloved is mine); Prokofiev (Romance and Juliet: Suite No. 1)

9.00am The Collection: Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 6 in B flat, K238); Schubert (Symphony No. 6 in D)

10.00 Musical Encounters: Stanford (Irish Rhapsody No. 1 in D minor); Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 22 in E flat, K482); Dowland (My Lord Willaby's Welcome; Home)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Antonin Dvorak

1.00pm News: Niccolò Demidovitch Medtner (Canzone serafina, Op. 38 No. 3; Sonata romanesca, Op. 38 No. 4); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto in C sharp minor, Op. 3 No. 2) (r)

2.00pm The BBC Symphony Orchestra, Takemitsu (I Hear the Water Dreaming); Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 25 in C, K503)

3.45pm A programme of songs by Reynaldo Hahn (r)

4.30pm Class of 86: A British Jazz Decade (24)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 10.40 My Name Escapes Me

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week 10.00 The Exchange (LW) 10.15 On This Day 10.00 News: Battling with the Pest (FM)

11.30 Women's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live: (0171) 380 4422

12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm Queen of Britain 1996 12.25pm Weather

1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers, (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News

4.05 Kaleidoscope Lynn Walker reviews Jonathan Miller's production of *La Traviata*

4.45 Short Story: Tom

5.00 Weather 5.55pm Shipping Forecast

6.00 Six O'Clock News

7.00 News Quiz (r)

7.05 The Archers

7.20 Over the Counter (4/4) (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: Burdened By Judith Adams

RADIO 4 WORLD SERVICE

Mad Lady Grange, abandoned by her husband, on St Kilda after three months forced to live to recover her mind and identity

9.15 Uncle Mort's Celtic Fringe: As Legend Has It: continuing Carter Brandon's epic journey through the music of Ireland's folk legends, given by John McGuire, The Welsh Wales, with Susan Gorton, soprano, Adey Grummett, soprano

9.10 Novelties: Mordecai Richter reads from his work-in-progress, *Barney Like the Piano Player*

9.30 Mystery of the Age of Enlightenment: Weber (Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E flat); Mozart (Rondo for horn and orchestra, K371)

10.00 Ensembles: A recital by Vanessa Latarche, piano. Includes Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* and Brahms' *Violin Concerto* in G major (Fugue Op. 35 No. 2) in D

2.00 The BBC Symphony Orchestra, Takemitsu (I Hear the Water Dreaming); Mozart (Piano Concerto No. 25 in C, K503)

3.45pm News: A programme of songs by Reynaldo Hahn (r)

4.30pm Jazz Notes: A look at the career of the Four Freshmen

1.00 Through the Night

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.40 My Name Escapes Me

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week 10.00 The Exchange (LW) 10.15 On This Day 10.00 News: Battling with the Pest (FM)

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6.00 Six O'Clock News

7.00 News Quiz (r)

7.05 The Archers

7.20 Over the Counter (4/4) (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: Burdened By Judith Adams

RADIO 5

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.40 My Name Escapes Me

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week 10.00 The Exchange (LW) 10.15 On This Day 10.00 News: Battling with the Pest (FM)

11.30 Women's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live: (0171) 380 4422

12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm Weather

1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers, (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News

4.05 Kaleidoscope Lynn Walker reviews Jonathan Miller's production of *La Traviata*

4.45 Short Story: Tom

5.00 Weather 5.55pm Shipping Forecast

6.00 Six O'Clock News

7.00 News Quiz (r)

7.05 The Archers

7.20 Over the Counter (4/4) (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: Burdened By Judith Adams

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.40 My Name Escapes Me

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week 10.00 The Exchange (LW) 10.15 On This Day 10.00 News: Battling with the Pest (FM)

11

The prospect of endless and empty Rhodes

Some of us feel a bit smug that we took a year off before university, to work in a bookshop. We think it showed maturity. Which is why the most remarkable moment in the whole 90 minutes of last night's *Rhodes* (BBC1) was when the young Cecil Rhodes (Joe Shaw) straightened his back, adjusted his braces, surveyed his diamond mines through a haze of African dust, and announced it was time to go back to school. Standing tall in his cricket whites and braces, all nice teeth and thick hair — well, he was probably right, whatever he did. But the confidence of the boy! Not only to own diamond mines at the age of 19, but to leave them in somebody else's care. An Oxford degree was worth more than diamonds, clearly. Perhaps when De Beers first came up with the slogan "How else would one month's salary last a lifetime?" they were thinking of their founder's education.

I used to wonder why *Rhodes* was being made; I maintained a rather touching confidence that the first episode would explain and justify. Perhaps Rhodes would turn out to be a fascinating man, with a great H. Rider Haggardish story of adventure, and the first episode would work hard to attract the doubtful and persuade the suspicious. But it was very odd. Though much toll was depicted on screen last night — kalfirs digging dirt, mostly — that foundation work was simply not done. His character never filled out, his background was a blank. By the end of it, I still don't have the slightest interest in Cecil Rhodes, save for his interesting answer to "What did you do in your year off?"

When a series comes along trumpeting its enormous budget, the viewer is bound to get niggly. So I don't mind saying *Rhodes* was peculiar visually too. Because it was filmed entirely in South Africa

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

servants and backflashing madly at the behest of the exotic Princess Radzwill (Frances Barber). These scenes were so awkward I found myself chewing the carpet — Barber's Russian accent was impeccable, but I would rather hear fingernails on a blackboard than listen to a Rooshni Meeshty Vooman's cooing misty memories from a tightly-buttoned man in a bad wig. Did she call him a colossus, by the

way, or was that a bad dream? Weeks of *Rhodes* stretch ahead. Meanwhile this weekend saw the relaunch of regular dramas, with *Casualty* on Saturday and *Pie in the Sky* yesterday (both BBC1) — both on form, if that's what you call it. As any fool knows, Charlie and Boz became proud parents on Saturday, but ho hum, but there was some drama nevertheless: a young mum went berserk with her kids, and a caper at a fireworks warehouse ended badly. The fireworks warehouse is such a perfect *Casualty* mise-en-scène ("Let's break it here but remember, no naked flames") — it was a privilege to witness it. They must have saved it up for years.

Pie in the Sky was the first of a two-part story (damn, I hate those) and involved the death of a stable lad from a blow to the head by a heavy circular object. Any Sherlock Holmes devotee will guess at once that the horse did it — as in

Silver Blaze — and will be gutted if proved wrong. *Pie in the Sky* is worth watching for those hallucinatory moments when the elegant Cambridge gives chase in slow motion. Arrange the limbs of a Barbie doll ("Look, she's running!") and you will get something of the idea.

Saturday's *Finst Cut* (BBC2) was *Troublesome Creek*, an intimate documentary by an American couple depicting the decline of an Iowa farming family. By contrast to the above, it was thoroughly absorbing and moving. When Russ and Mary Jane Jordan sold their cows at auction one snowy January day, the sense of loss was unbearable. Their daughter, Jeanne Jordan, was one of the filmmakers (with partner Steven Ascher), and *Troublesome Creek* had the unpretentious feel of a superior home movie. In an early

scene, when a mewling kitten was coaxed to jump off a high barn roof ("I'll catch you!" called brother John), the camera swung round afterwards on Jeanne herself, weeping with relief. "This is my family in a nutshell," she said in voice-over. "Incredible luck, incredible timing, and forever teetering on the brink of disaster."

Finally, The South Bank Show (ITV) returned last night with an excellent film about Victoria Wood. Its producer, Nigel Wattis, is evidently a fan: exactly the right bits from old shows and sketches were intercut with Melvyn Bragg's interview — the cross-channel swimming teenager whose parents don't miss her, for example. And an interesting bonus: on the evening when Kimberley received its name by royal decree in *Rhodes*, how pleasant to see what a big laugh "Have you seen my friend Kimberley?" can still get at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool.

6.00am Business Breakfast (14448)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (45719)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (850249)
9.20 Style Challenge (s) (2302103)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (1275429)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (14264)
11.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (4557061)
11.05 Phantom of the Opera (r) (Ceefax) (s) (36796871)
12.45pm Blooming Lovely (s) (34674559)
1.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (48308)
1.30 Regional News and weather (45144239)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (32585158)
2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (6143351) 2.35 Turnabout (s) (1789429) 3.00 Who'll Do the Pudding? (s) (4516)
3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (850871) 3.55 Badger and Badger (s) (604784) 4.10 Fudge (Ceefax) (s) (7497500) 4.35 Cartoon Critters (Ceefax) (s) (4738306) 5.00 Newsworld (Ceefax) (s) (7876522) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (2416581)
5.35 Neighbours (458784)
6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (871)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (351)
7.00 Telly Addicts. Noel Edmonds continues his search for the *Telly Addicts* champions of 1996 (Ceefax) (3697)
7.30 Mastermind. Magnus Magnusson introduces the first of the semi-finals from the Tower Circus, Blackpool (Ceefax) (3535)
8.00 EastEnders. Ian goes in pursuit of the truth concerning Cindy and David (Ceefax) (s) (5245)
8.30 X Cars. Steve Lewis and Phil Steele from X-Department's Vehicle Crime Unit tackle a problem area in Greater Manchester where hundreds of cars are stolen each month (Ceefax) (s) (1852)
9.00 News; regional news and weather (Ceefax) (8790)
9.30 NEW Panorama Special: Dunblane. *Panorama* talks exclusively to the families whose children were murdered and to the two teachers who were badly wounded in the shooting at Dunblane Primary School earlier this year (Ceefax) (940149)
10.20 NEW Chicago Hope: Hello Goodbye. Geiger has to perform a risky heart operation on a young woman who dislikes him, and Shurt's father announces his engagement to be his daughter. Starring Mandy Patinkin and Adam Arkin (447577) NL: Country Time 10.50 Chicago Hope 11.30 Film 96 with Barry Norman 12.05am FILM: Talent For The Game 1.35-1.40 Weather (Weather)

11.05 Film 96 with Barry Norman. The latest releases including *Simpleton*, with Demi Moore, and *Escape from LA*, with Kurt Russell (Ceefax) (283177)
11.35 FILM: Talent for the Game (1991) starring Edward James Olmos, Lorraine Bracco, Jeff Corbett, Jamie Shandor and Terry Kinney. A pitcher plucked from obscurity becomes the downside of being baseball's new hero. Directed by Robert M. Young (s) (504887)
1.05am-1.10 Weather (2331746)

6.00am Open University: Designing a Lift (229129) 6.25 Social Scientists at Work (769309)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (6682158)

7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (993448) 7.55 Blue Peter (r) (2013784)

8.20 King of Kings (r) (1996516)

8.25 Tales of Aesop (r) (8302374) 8.35 Lassie (r) (2555158) 9.00 TVB (16822)

9.30 Cosmo & Dibs in Punjab (669835) 9.40 Megamaths (2503931)

10.00 Playdays (s) (26142) 10.30 Hatch Potch House (s) (1601058) 10.50 Look and Read (161322) 11.00 Zog Zag (s) (6148023) 11.30 Ghostwriter (s) (6197)

12.00 GMVQ (s) (79018) 1.00 History File (7391453) 1.20 Spanish Globe (6341317) 1.25 Landmarks (s) (7382042)

1.45 Storytime (45227516) 2.00 King Greenfingers (r) (21535451) 2.05 Tales of Aesop (2298592)

2.10 FILM: She'll Take Romance (1990) A television weathergirl (Linda Evans) judges a "Romantic Man" contest. Directed by Piers Haggard (Ceefax) (238790)

3.05 News, and Weather (Ceefax) (4793158)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (264) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (448) 5.00 Esther (7603) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (Ceefax) (s) (500)

6.00 UFO (Ceefax) (996351)

6.45 Later Presents: Brit Beat. Joels Holland presents a compilation of five studio performances from the new generation of British guitar-pop bands (s) (409868)

7.35 The Great North Run. Coverage of the 13-mile race between Newcastle and South Shields (s) (556351)

8.05 People's Century: 1945 — Brave New World. Charting the turbulent changes of the 20th century through the eyes of ordinary men and women (r) (Ceefax) (s) (257500)

8.30 Cutting Edge: Paradise Island Channel 4, 9.00pm

9.00 Pioneers: Saving Babies. Paediatrician Dr Beryl Corner was a medical pioneer in a double sense. First, although a brilliant student, she had to overcome prejudice against women in the profession to pursue her career as a paediatrician. Having won that battle, she did as much as anybody in this country to reduce the shockingly high mortality rate among sick and premature babies. As recently as the 1940s, over half of all babies born under 5lb died. Happily still with us at the age of 85, Dr Corner recalls her work in Bristol, where she initiated modern notions of intensive care, successfully delivered the Good quads, and devised radical remedies for two other scourges of newborn babies, blindness and jaundice. Despite her fondness for children, she says she never wanted any of her own. Or rather, she never met a man she wanted to marry.

9.30 Sykes. Peter Sellers joins Eric Sykes and Hattie Jacques (r) (44993)

New boy Neil Stuke (10pm)

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9.30 Game On. Comedy about three young flatmates who don't seem to be enjoying life. With Samantha Janus, Neil Stuke and Matthew Cottle (Ceefax) (s) (475774)

10.00 Newsnight (Ceefax) (522413)

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (Ceefax) (s) (557264)

11.40 Seinfeld (Ceefax) (s) (123005)

12.05 Grace Under Fire (s) (1800833)

Followed by Weatherwatch

12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Strictly Dancing: Irish Set Dance Channel 4, 8.40pm

You dance with a partner in groups of eight. Each dance is made up of several parts called figures. The figures are made up of short routines called moves. And so on, until your head spins and your feet, if you have been trying to follow these quickfire instructions, are probably pointing in opposite directions. It was a good idea to explain the nuts and bolts of the dances in this series, but not at such bewildering speed. Thankfully there is a human story. This one is about three sisters, Janet, Carol and Linda, who leave their husbands and children every Monday to go dancing in Liverpool. They also go dancing in Ireland, because nobody in Liverpool knows the Cavan Reel. One of the sisters says: "We are too young for bingo and too old for discos. The dancing suits us nicely."

Pioneers: Saving Babies

Dr Beryl Corner was a medical pioneer in a double sense. First, although a brilliant student, she had to overcome prejudice against women in the profession to pursue her career as a paediatrician. Having won that battle, she did as much as anybody in this country to reduce the shockingly high mortality rate among sick and premature babies. As recently as the 1940s, over half of all babies born under 5lb died. Happily still with us at the age of 85, Dr Corner recalls her work in Bristol, where she initiated modern notions of intensive care, successfully delivered the Good quads, and devised radical remedies for two other scourges of newborn babies, blindness and jaundice. Despite her fondness for children, she says she never wanted any of her own. Or rather, she never met a man she wanted to marry.

Cutting Edge: Paradise Island Channel 4, 9.00pm

Tony Craig's dream is to set up a new community on an uninhabited tropical island. It may sound a dotty idea but when he advertises in a newspaper he has more than 500 replies from people keen to make a fresh start to their lives and prepared to put up the £150,000 needed to make the project work. Meetings are held, plans are laid and Craig, with his wife and young son, goes looking for his island in the Gulf of Panama. But as the months go by and nothing much happens, potential members of the community start to get restless. It dawns on them that they know very little about Craig, what he does and where he got his money from. The same thoughts may occur to the viewer and when Craig's past suddenly catches up with him David Frank's film takes a dramatically different direction.

Game On BBC2, 10.00pm

It is difficult to go into the details of this returning sitcom by Andrew Davies and Bernadette Davis in case children may be reading. Suffice to say that 95 per cent of the plot is about sex, and that if the camera discreetly backs away at the most explicit moments the dialogue does not. Devotees will recall that *Game On* is twenty-something flat-sharers, played by Samantha Janus, Matthew Cottle and in a cast change since the first series, Neil Stuke. All the talk is about their sexual encounters, past, present and in the future. When shy Martin (Cottle) meets a pretty nurse (Tracy Keating) it is a chance for both of them to lose their virginity. The joke, not an original one but much appreciated by the studio audience, is that when it comes to it poor Martin is just too shy. Peter Waymark

Snipes saves the day (9pm)

9.00 FILM: Passenger 57. Terrorist Charles Rane is lying to stand trial in Los Angeles when his accomplices hijack the plane. Also on board is an anti-terrorism expert. No prizes for guessing who goes to the rescue of the innocent passengers. With Wesley Snipes and Bruce Payne. Directed by Kevin Hooks. Continued after the news (Teletext) (8429)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (28413)

10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (810245)

10.40 FILM: Passenger 57. Concludes (Teletext) (s) (971245)

11.15 FILM: The Return of a Man Called Horse (1976). Visually breathtaking sequel with Richard Harris. John Morgan returns to the American West to win back the freedom of the Indian tribe that adopted him (1355581)

12.00 Bushell on the Box (s) (88659) 2.00 The Crime Hour (60494) 3.00 Big Match — Replayed (r) (1889814) 3.40 Coach (r) (s) (4992231) 4.30 Jones and Jury (s) (6019003) 4.30 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (50746) 5.00 The Place (r) (s) (50746) 5.30 News

Starts: 6.35 Hammerman (104550) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (38429) 9.00 Bless This House (s) (97090)

9.30 Schools: Autumn Term Preview Programme (6501056) 9.45 Book Box (6599210) 10.00 Stage Two Science (488093) 10.15 Learn Sign Language (787005) 10.20 Race and People (478841) 10.30 The English Programme (1507790) 11.05 Encyclopedia Galactica (456362) 11.15 The Mix (5661603) 11.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat (320790) 11.45 Junior Technology (66538)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (25326)

12.30pm Backdate (s) (Teletext) (53687)

1.00 Sesame Street (r) (s) (41852)

2.00 Joe McDade (50080351)

2.15 FILM: Tom Brown's Schooldays (1951). A vivid film of Thomas Hughes's classic novel, with John Howard Davies. Directed by Gordon Parry (239429)

4.00 Fifteen to One (s) (Teletext) (s) (25326)

4.30-5.30 A Country Practice (1787061)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (24397121)

5.50 Let's Go (565167)

7.00 The List (4993)

7.30 Bruce's Price Is Right (4993)

7.50 Coronation Street (2150210)

**DOMINANT 43**

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BUSINESS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1996

POOR STATE 46

Graham Searjeant on inequality of economic society



BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

NO. 05.05

Editor to claim £1.4m after sale of Sunday Business

By JASON NISSE

TOM RUBYTHON, the Editor of *Sunday Business*, the national newspaper that has been in administration since June, is poised to benefit financially from the recent sale of the paper to a Yorkshire businessman, while most unsecured creditors are to remain empty-handed.

The details of any payout are to be revealed at a creditors' meeting tomorrow, but Royce Peeling

Green, the administrator of the four companies set up to run *Sunday Business*, has confirmed that unsecured creditors of the main company, Business Newspapers Publishing, will receive nothing.

Group 2000, a dumper truck company controlled by Gordon Brown, a Yorkshire businessman, has been supporting the newspaper since shortly after its launch in April.

Group 2000 said that it would pull the plug on September 4,

causing *Sunday Business* to shut down. But two days later it suddenly bought the paper for an undisclosed sum, believed to be in the region of £400,000.

Creditors were told of the sale in a letter on Thursday. But *The Times* has discovered that the creditors' letter is misleading.

The letter says that Group 2000 purchased assets from two companies in administration, Business Newspapers (Holdings) and Business Newspapers (UK). However,

Mark Beezley, of Royce Peeling Green, said this was incorrect because Business Newspapers (UK) had nothing to do with the transaction, the seller being Business & Fortune Newspapers.

The largest creditor of Business & Fortune Newspapers is Mr Rubython, claiming £1.4 million. Two other main creditors are Business Agri Inc, a US company controlled by Mr Rubython, claiming £306,000; and BF Business Publishing, where Mr Rubython is

the only director, which says it is owed £27,000.

A substantial portion of the sale price of *Sunday Business* is now likely to end up with Mr Rubython.

The debt he is claiming relates to his pre-launch investment in *Sunday Business*. However, in the prospectus issued by *Sunday Business* in March in an attempt to attract investors, it says: "The founders [Mr Rubython and his colleague Anil Bhoyar] have invested £1.5 million in the newspaper." At

no point is this investment described as a loan.

Most of the other unsecured creditors are owed money by Business Newspapers Publishing, the company said in the paper itself to own *Sunday Business*.

Mr Beezley said that the assets of Business Newspapers Publishing are £800,000 of advertising income owed to the paper. However, this would be more than eaten up by a mortgage charge of £1.28 million granted to Group 2000.

Exchange speeds up the news

The London Stock Exchange is today introducing a new electronic news service which will allow companies to make their official announcements directly to the markets rather than sending hard copies or faxes to the exchange first.

The software will become available to all UK and overseas listed companies as well as AIM companies. Christine Dunn, the Exchange's director of business operations, said: "With up to 3,000 announcements being received each week the use of the DIP (direct input provider) service will enable companies to send us their announcements quickly and securely."

BTR denial

Sources close to BTR were playing down a weekend report that Ian Strachan, chief executive for a year, is planning a mass purge of non-executive directors from the previous management.

BTR last week announced a cut in the interim dividend and a disposal programme for businesses with sales totalling £2.3 billion. The City expects further disposals from Mr Strachan's "new broom" approach.

Lloyd's deal

Lloyd's of London has reached agreement with the state of Illinois that resolves all claims and disputes resulting from the participation of Illinois names in the Lloyd's insurance market. More than three quarters of the total US names have accepted the \$5 billion Lloyd's settlement offer.



Stock markets around the world are sitting at all-time highs. ANATOLE KALETSKY wonders why.

Drop in shoe sales forecast for Sears

By JASON NISSE

SEARS, the retailing group hit by losses stemming from its relationship with the collapsed empire of Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, is suffering a worrying fall in sales in its shoe shops, retail sources believe.

The bad news is not expected to emerge in the company's half-year results announced tomorrow. These are expected to show a profit in spite of a £25 million provision taken by Sears when it appointed administrators to the businesses that it sold to Mr Hinchliffe, causing the collapse of his Facia empire. Facia is now being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

British Shoe Corporation, the Sears footwear business, has only four brand names: Shoe City, Shoe Express, Dolcis and Cable, having sold a portfolio of other brands to Mr Hinchliffe.

BSC has converted more than 300 of its remaining outlets to the Shoe Express format, which it initially described as a success. However industry sources have said that this year they are suffering a fall in sales of over 10 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Dolcis is also believed to be suffering.

Sears, owner of Selfridges, denies that there are any problems with Shoe Express and Dolcis. However the group is expected to reveal that it is suffering reduced sales in two of its other main operations: Freemans, the home shopping operation, and Adams, the children's wear operation.

Reporting Ahead, page 43

Deal near on take-or-pay gas contracts

By CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH GAS is in the final stages of negotiating with two big oil companies a long-awaited deal aimed at reducing its exposure to £4 billion of highly priced take-or-pay gas contracts.

The breakthrough in talks with the two multinationals, believed to be Shell and BP, could lead to agreement in several weeks. British Gas expects the deal to be a benchmark for similar agreements with other gas suppliers. Exxon is the third major oil company involved, but its gas interests are mainly in joint ventures with Shell.

The resolution of the take-or-pay dilemma would be a great relief to British Gas shareholders, who have been told that this and the running battle with Ofgas, the regula-

tor, are the two main threats to the company's survival. British Gas is thought to be offering the oil companies part of its Morecambe Bay gasfield as an incentive to reduce the price of contracts struck in the Eighties.

British Gas wants to reduce its average price of gas — now about 21p a therm — to about 15.5p a therm, the approximate level at which long-term contracts are now being negotiated.

Without cheaper gas, British Gas Energy, the company that will take over distribution when British Gas is demerged, will be unable to compete effectively when the domestic market is opened to competition. Spot gas prices are now at 9.10p a therm.

British Gas is seeking to

negotiate about £1 billion worth of contracted gas, a value that could equate to a third of the £3 billion-plus Morecambe Bay assets.

A stake in the Morecambe

Bay field is more likely to appeal to Shell and BP than a cash payment to reduce the price of the contracts. Both have ample funds, but would be interested in securing access to large gas reserves to supply the UK domestic market and the continental gas market. At present, gas prices are higher across the Channel and exports will be viable when an interconnector to Belgium starts operation by the end of the century.

However, negotiations will be complicated by the existence of an internal take-or-pay contract between British Gas's exploration arm and British Gas Supply. Nick Antill, of BZW, the brokers, says Shell and BP might be reluctant to take minority stakes in North Morecambe without the ability to influence volumes. The field is operated by British Gas and used as a "swing producer" to iron out peaks and troughs in demand.

The take-or-pay contracts required British Gas to make an £85 million provision last year for gas that it was unable to sell profitably because of mild weather and loss of market share in the industrial and commercial market.



A worrying trend for Sears at Shoe Express, but increased profits are still expected.

MG braced for purge

DEUTSCHE BANK, owner of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, is trawling through City high-flyers to find a new boss for the fund management business rocked by financial scandal (Martin Waller writes).

A six-week inquiry is under way into MG funds managed by Peter Young, but insiders

Delay feared in Telekom float

By OLIVER AUGUST

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the German phone group due to be privatised in November, may be heading for a delay in its £9 billion flotation.

Dealers fear that Deutsche may take longer than expected to turn itself into a listed company. An insider close to the deal in London said that a delay in the flotation, the largest this year and one of the largest ever, over regulatory issues is a "strong possibility".

A Deutsche spokesman said that the original timetable was still valid, and discussions about regulation were continuing. "The timetable is always under review, but discussions don't automatically mean there is a delay," he said. "These are rumours flying around the markets."

Deutsche will publish half-

year results tomorrow and report on its progress towards flotation. Analysts are expected to question Deutsche on the timetable, which currently envisages trading in the shares starting on November 18.

First-half profit figures are

likely to be 10 per cent lower than last year, according to company predictions three months ago, after tariff changes to make telephone calls cheaper in Germany and the introduction of VAT.

British small investors can benefit from discount arrangements designed to attract German investors to the flotation.

UK investors are formally barred from benefiting from the incentives, under which Germans will be able to buy shares at discount of between 1 and 5 per cent, and have priority in share allocation if the issue is oversubscribed, as well as receiving, in three years' time, an eleventh share for every ten still held.

However, UK investors can

become eligible for these benefits even without a German passport or a German address, by buying a bank account with one of Germany's 35 main commercial banks, through opening one either in Germany or with a subsidiary in Britain or with a branch in the UK.

City institutions have

claimed that until recently the company had been talking down the threat from kleopots. The news of falling kleopots virtually halved Clark's stock market value last week, but analysts failed to see it coming.

Matthew Clark talks to City

By MARTIN WALLER

MATTHEW CLARK, the drinks distributor that started the stock market last week with dire warnings about the impact on the business of "alcopops", or alcoholic soft drinks targeted at young drinkers, is starting a crucial week of talks with institutional shareholders.

Some City sources have been calling for the head of Peter Aikens, the chief executive, and other key executives, claiming the extent of the problem had been concealed from them until last week's shock at the company's annual meeting.

Clark said on Tuesday that kleopots had hit its prime cider brands such as Diamond White and "K", which compete for young drinkers.

City institutions have claimed that until recently the company had been talking down the threat from kleopots. The news of falling kleopots virtually halved Clark's stock market value last week, but analysts failed to see it coming.

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Hope of buyback changes

By OLIVER AUGUST

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, has become embroiled in a row over share buybacks by large companies, giving campaigners fresh hope a change of rules will be included in this year's Budget.

Mr Clarke has written to several MPs and signalled his sympathy with their complaints about the ill-treatment of charities. The MPs had highlighted peculiarities in the tax system that allow large corporations and institutional

investors to profit from buybacks but not small funds such as charities.

"Gross funds" are excluded from buyback benefits because most large companies that purchase their own shares deal only with large investors rather than making a tender offer to all shareholders including charities.

Mr Clarke said in his letter that in such cases "a tender offer may provide the greatest possible equality of opportunity for all shareholders". Leading the drive for a rule change is Alan Diamond, a stockbroker who runs his own charitable fund. He expressed high hopes for an announcement on buybacks in the Budget.

In his letter the Chancellor says: "The provisions in the listing rules ensure a realistic level of equality of treatment for shareholders without imposing an undue burden on companies."

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